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President Clinton: 'Supreme Court decision must not set back discrimination fight'

Statement from President Clinton

WASHINGTON DC—The U.S. Supreme Court's decision limiting affirmative action sets a new legal standard for judging affirmative action, but it must not set us back in our fight to end discrimination and create equal opportunity for all.

"Despite great progress, discrimination and exclusion on the basis of race and gender are still facts of life in America. I have always believed that affirmative action is needed to remedy discrimination and to create a more inclusive society that truly provides equal opportunity. But I have also said that Affirmative action must be carefully justified and must be done the right way. The Court's opinion in *Adarand* is not inconsistent with that view.

"It is regrettable that already, with the ink barely dry, many are using the Court's opinion as a reason to abandon the fight. Exaggerated claims about the end of Affirmative action—whether in celebration or dismay—do not serve the interest of all of us in a responsible national conversation about how to move forward together and create equal opportunity.

"The Supreme Court has raised the hurdle, but it is not insurmountable. Make no mistake: the Court has approved Affirmative action that is narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling interest. The constitutionality test is now tougher than it was, but I am confident that the test can be met in many cases. We know that from the experience of state and local governments, which have operated under the tougher standard for some years now.

"Some weeks ago, I directed by staff conducting the review of federal affirmative action programs to ask agencies a number of probing questions about programs that make race or sex a condition of eligibility for any kind of benefit. What, concretely, is the justification for this particular program?

"Have race and gender-neutral alternatives been considered? Is the program flexible? Does it avoid quotas, in theory and in practice? Is it transitional and temporary? Is it narrowly drawn? Is it balanced, so that it avoids concentrating its benefits and its costs? These are tough questions, but they are the right policy questions and they need answers.

"I have instructed the Administration's affirmative action review to include an analysis of the *Adarand* decision and its implications in its report."

NAACP JOINS FIGHT AGAINST STATE SCHOOL TAKE-OVER

by Sherry Burrus

NEWARK—The NAACP Newark branch recently joined forces with Superintendent of the Newark schools system Eugene Campbell, Newark Board of Education, the Voting Rights Committee, Essex County PTA, and the Newark Teachers Association to fight a near-by state take-over of the Newark school system.

In a press conference held, Friday, June 30, Superintendent Campbell and NAACP President Susan McGhee announced that the Newark BOE, along with the NAACP was fully prepared to go to court if the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) refuses to grant a hearing as required under the N.J. Statutes 18A:7A-14(4).

"The Newark Branch of NAACP

supports the Newark citizens, parents and community... We must remember that these parents and citizens whose voting rights are being stripped are African and Latino Americans, the last in America of whom received their right to vote," said McGhee.

While McGhee says the NAACP realizes that the Newark BOE and the NJDOE are equally guilty for not

providing a "thorough and efficient education" to their children, she says "the hearing is essential to provide the Board an opportunity to dispel any untrue allegations contained in the Comprehensive Compliance Investigation Report."

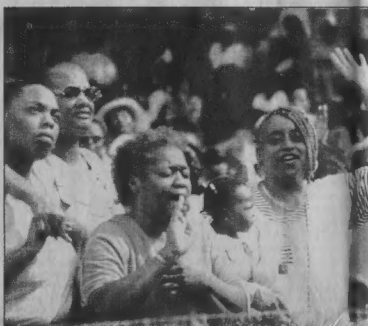
"We don't have the opportunity to appear in court to defend ourselves and demonstrate that what they have said in that CCI report is untrue... We

have the ability, capability and will to do whatever is ever necessary (to help our children progress)."

"We have put forth the reform effort over a year ago and the state has not permitted us to move forward with our programs, so when you talk about our students not progressing it

See NAACP JOINS FIGHT/ page 12

GospelFest gets large turn out



NEWARK—A crowd of over a 1000 gathered at the Gospel Parade of Stars concert held Sunday, June 25 at Weequahic Park. The line-up featured Evangelist Dorothy Norwood (r), Alvin Darling & Celebration, Wonder Boy and the Spiritual Voices among others. Hosted the event was Sean Scott of 98.7 KISS FM. The show was sponsored by Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation/Cultural Affairs, Newark Division of Recreation/Cultural Affairs, Weequahic Park Association.



Photo by George Hanley

Clergy challenges youth house officials

by Sandra Wright

NEWARK—A little over a year ago the situation of the Essex County Youth House and its occupants was brought to the attention of the public. At that time, County officials stated that the allegations of overcrowding, abuse and unsanitary conditions were false. However, it was evident from an undercover video shown on national TV that inmates were allowed

to sleep on small mats on the floor with little space between them, they were no clothes except for under wear and the place looked in shambles.

Last Tuesday, June 26, Reverend Reginald Jackson and other members of the clergy along with the media visited the youth house with hopes of getting a tour of the facility and to see if the conditions had been improved. The group however, was only allowed to meet with Paul Goldenberg director

of citizen services for Essex County, James Smith director of the youth house and Ron Manzella director of the department of corrections.

Last year after the report was released, acting County Executive Don Diabise appointed a committee to monitor and review the facility and its progress in improving conditions. The clergy said then that the committee was a hoax because some of its members were themselves re-

sponsible for the deplorable conditions at the house.

Rev. Jackson said the officials claimed that the house was in a better condition now than it was last year, but when he requested a tour he was told that it would take place only after the press conference. The group requested the tour before the conference but Manzella said it was not

See CLERGY CHALLENGES/ page 12

Superintendent of schools awards scholarships

TRENTON—Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Bernice P. Venable, has announced that nine outstanding students of the Trenton school system were recipients of the Superintendent's Incentive Scholarship for 1994-95 school year.

The students were awarded a total of \$11,000 making the total of awarded scholarships since 1992, over \$40,000.

The fund was organized from the Board of Education's Incentive Pay to the Superintendent for accomplishing goals in Student Academic Achievement, Student Attendance, Parent Involvement and Student Dropout Rate.

"I have returned the Incentive Pay to the Fund, as well as honorariums paid to me. In addition, an anonymous donor has helped to finance the fund," stated Dr. Venable.

The original goal of the fund was to recognize deserving students who are products, consistently, of the Trenton Public Schools, who have made a positive change in their lives, and who have achieved academically, made commitment to give volunteer service and who will pursue higher education. The award in this area is for \$1,500.

Last year, two additional categories were added. One category for

students who meet the academic and volunteerism category, but who may not have been enrolled, consistently in Trenton—with an award of \$1,000, and the second category for students completing the EXCEL Program, which also awards up to \$1,000, depending on availability of funds.

The EXCEL Program is a non-traditional program for high achievement students who completed high school within a three-year period by attending required summer program at colleges and universities.

The scholarship recipients are:
JASON SMITH—Rider University

\$1,500 scholarship:
Nia Austin—Temple University
Bobby McCall—University of Delaware
Andre Monday—Trenton State College
Jacquelyn Leaton—University of Massachusetts

\$1,000 scholarship are:
Issac Tony—Rider University
Julie Torrellas—University of Massachusetts
Nicola Nixon—Bentley Rutgers University
Dai Nguyen—Montclair College

Congressman Payne monitors Haiti elections

WASHINGTON, DC—Tenth District Congressman Donald Payne, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, who also serves on the House International Relations Committee, flew to Haiti as a member of the Inter-Organizational Observer Mission overseeing the nation's first democratic election since democracy was restored.

After monitoring the elections, the congressman said that despite a number of logistical problems, the overall voting process was fair and free of violence or intimidation.

"While there were problems such as ballot shortages and lateness in opening polling places, these were relatively minor inconveniences, not major impediments to an open election. I am encouraged by the fact that there were no major incidents of violence or obstruction of access to the polls," said Congressman Payne.

The delegation included leaders from government, the human rights community, academia, labor and business. Others joining the congressman were Randall Robinson, president, TransAfrica Forum; Danny Glover, actor/activist and member of Artists for Democracy; Gay McDougall, executive director, International Human Rights Law; William Lucy, International secretary-treasurer, American Fed-

eration of State, County and Municipal Employees; Charles Ogletree, professor, Harvard Law School.

The delegation arrived in Port-au-Prince, where they met by U.S. Ambassador to Haiti William Lacy Swing. During the visit, they joined with another U.S. delegation led by Brian Atwood, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator, to attend a series of meetings and briefings.

These included a United Nations/Organization of American States briefing; a USAID Elections Grants Briefing; a meeting with Anelme Remy, chairman, Provisional Electoral Council; and a meeting with the heads of all political parties, as well as the observation of the election process at Cap-Haitien. The USAID Grants consist of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems; the International Republican Institute; the National Democratic Institute and the American Institute for Free Labor Development.

The congressman noted that voter registration was over 92 percent, with 10,000 polling places in operation and 25 political parties represented. In total, there were 4,069 candidates who registered for senators, deputies, magistrates and local council members. Out of that number,

See ELECTIONS/page 3

Special-needs teams to navigate first Superhighway Academy

TRENTON—The New Jersey State Department of Education's Urban Technology Alliance and AT&T announced that teams of teachers and administrators from 10 special needs districts in the state have been selected to participate in the 1995 AT&T Information Superhighway Academy.

The participating districts in the new program are: East Orange, Elizabeth, Hoboken, Irvington, Jersey City, Newark, Phillipsburg, Plainfield, Union City and West New York.

The Urban Technology Alliance and AT&T have joined to offer hands-on experience and comprehensive training in communications systems in a week-long summer session. This year's Academy will be held from July 31 to August 4 at the AT&T Technical Education Center in Piscataway.

"I am pleased to be part of a much-needed effort to offer educators a chance to close the technology gap," said Dr. Leo Klagholz, Commissioner of Education. "Since this gap is particularly acute in our special needs districts, teams from those districts were sought for the inaugural program."

Klagholz noted that the benefits from attending the Academy will be continuous and far-reaching. "After participants learn about technologies and the infrastructure for their schools' educational networks, they will share ideas and information with other staff from their and other school districts," said Klagholz.

"In addition, they will have an opportunity to take a journey on the international information superhighway—traveling to distant parts of the world without ever leaving the site," said Klagholz.

Klagholz also said the Superhighway Academy should improve staff development by giving teachers up-to-date information about technology that they can share with their students.

A major goal of the program is for each participating district to return from the Superhighway Academy with the information and skills needed to develop a project plan for school-based communications systems.

"As a company that's a leader in the communications business, we believe we have a responsibility to help open the lines of communications and enhance education in the communities where our employees live and work," said Esther Silver-Parker, vice president, AT&T Public Relations. "We at AT&T are committed to the Urban Technology Alliance and ensuring that every child, especially those in urban school districts, has access to the Information Superhighway."

The AT&T Urban Alliance was formed by Denise Mulloy, an AT&T executive "on loan" to the Department of Education for two years.

PEOPLE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

REGISTER NOW:
EDISON—"Women in Computer Aided Design" two-day program for single parents or displaced homemakers at Middlesex County College. For more info call 908-324-0700.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5 & 6
LINCOLN—"Audition for 'A Chorus Line'" by the Mystic Visions Players at the Linden Presbyterian Church (5th) and Roselle Catholic High School (5th) 7 p.m. For more info call 908-955-9387.

JULY 6 & 7
WAYNE—Two-day conference focusing on ways to use technology at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-959-2438.

NOW THRU JULY 9
MONTCLAIR—"Private Art" Public Art: Photographs from the Collections of Citibank and Johnson & Johnson at The Montclair Art Museum. For more info call 201-746-5555.

EAST RUTHERFORD—Meadowlands Fair at Giants Stadium. Hours vary call 201-935-3900.

MONDAY, JULY 10
JERSEY CITY—"Women Raising Your Self-Esteem" program at Jersey City State College from 4:30 to 6 p.m. For more info call 201-200-3189.

JERSEY CITY—"How to Earn College Credit" program at Jersey City State College from 6 to 7 p.m. For more info call 201-200-3189.

TUESDAY, JULY 11
EAST ORANGE—"Jazz at the Plaza" at Sorel Park at 6 p.m. For more info call 201-266-5147 or 5123.

PLAINFIELD—Financial Aid Workshop at Union County College at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-412-3571.

JULY 11, 18, 25
NEW BRUNSWICK—"Preparing for the first year of college workshop" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Rutgers University College Avenue campus. For more info call 908-932-6868 or 1-800-HI-RTUTGERS.

JULY 11, THRU AUGUST 15
PLAINFIELD—"Basic Literacy Tutoring Training Workshop" on Tuesdays at the Plainfield Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more info or to be a tutor call 908-

755-7998.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12
NEWARK—120th birthday Mary McLeod Bethune celebration at The Newark Public Library from 6 to 6 p.m.

CRANFORD—Financial Aid Workshop at Union County College at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7141.
EAST ORANGE—Systes 4 Systes Educational AIDS program at East Orange High School at 4:15 p.m. For more info call 201-673-2193.

THURSDAY, JULY 13
JERSEY CITY—"Legal Education Night" program at Jersey City State College from 4:30 to 6 p.m. For more info call 201-200-3189.

ELIZABETH—Financial Aid Workshop at Union County College at 6 p.m. For more info call 908-965-0061.

SATURDAY, JULY 15
HOBOKEN—Puerto Rican Cultural Festival at Central Square Park from 2 to 9 p.m. For more info call (day) 201-420-2017 or (even) 201-217-0586.

NEWARK—"Consider the Times" (play) at Newark Symphony Hall. For more info call 201-599-0363.

SUNDAY, JULY 19
VCR ALERT—"Lone of Darkness-Part II" airs on TBS at 11 p.m.

THRU JULY 20
WAYNE—"1995 Summer Institute on Education" (seminars on educational practices in use across the nation) at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-595-2436.

JERSEY CITY—"Twenty-six annual Cinema Institut" at Jersey City State College from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more info call 201-200-2120.

JULY 23-29
WAYNE—"Summer Jazz Improvisation Workshop" at William Paterson College for high school and college students. For more info call 201-595-2436.

JULY 24-26
WAYNE—"Jazz It Up!" series at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-595-2371.

Senator Rice honored by Pediatric Society

NEWARK—State Senator and Newark West Councilman Ronald Rice was recently honored as "Person of the Year" by the New Jersey Pediatric Society.

Councilman Rice was chosen for his efforts on behalf of parents and their children in the state and the example that he sets for New Jersey's leadership in health care.

Senator Rice is deputy assistant minority leader in the Senate and as a member of the Senate Health Committee proposed a "Mother's Choice" amendment to health bill S-1963 (on Early infant discharge), which was initially introduced to set some guidelines on hospital care during child delivery.

The senator's amendment required that mothers and their newborn babies be given a minimum two day (48 hours) hospital stay for normal deliveries and three to five days for cesarean sections.

Senator Rice introduced the amendment in response to consumer reports of numerous complications.



Senator Ronald Rice

and problems suffered by both newborns and mothers after discharge because insurance companies refused to pay for more than a 24-hour hospital stay. The "mother's choice" amendment will alleviate that problem so that mothers and their babies will leave the hospital within 24 hours only if the mother chooses to do so.

Ollie Jones named Employee of the Month for May



Ollie Jones

ELIZABETH—Ollie Jones, director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Public Safety for Union County was named Employee of the Month for May.

Trusty receives grant to preserve history

PATERSON—The review committee to the Making History program of the Urban History Initiative has awarded Kathy Trusty and Kate Gordon of the Passaic County Historical Society, \$5,000 for their proposed work on the history of African Americans in Paterson.

The project was made possible through funding from the city of Paterson/National Park Service Urban History Initiative. Trusty plans to have the project finished in three years.

LaRaye Brown honored as UNCF scholar

NEW YORK—LaRaye Brown, of Newark, a UNCF scholar was honored by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). She is a sophomore with a dual major in engineering and math, at Spelman College.

Brown and 18 other scholars from UNCF schools were recognized for high academic achievement during a Toyota Scholars recognition program. Established in 1988, the Toyota/UNCF Scholarship program provides annual and renewable scholarships to 20 undergraduate students from the Historical Black Colleges.



Nursing students inducted into honor society

Janice E. Irons (second from r) of West Orange and Andrea Renee Martinez (second from l) were among the Jersey City College students who were recently inducted into the Kappa Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society of nursing. The students were congratulated at a ceremony by Gloria Bosenman (l) of Orange, a JCS assistant professor of nursing, and Dr. Jo Anne Jungner of South Orange, acting assistant dean of the School of Professional Studies and Education.

AKA chapter garners award



Members of Beta Alpha Omega and Gamma Zeta chapter, Newark, of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. join in the celebration for the numerous awards that the chapter received at its recent North Atlantic Regional Conference, Seated L-R (Second Row) Dr. E. Alma Piagg, Melody Parker, vice president; Lamya D. Clarke, president of Beta Alpha Omegas; Lucie Thebaud, president of Gamma Zeta; Winifred Walden, Ella Rainey and Janita Robinson.

NEWARK—Beta Alpha Omega Chapter, Newark, of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. recently received six awards at the 64th North Atlantic Regional Conference that was held in New York City. These awards were presented to the chapter for outstanding service and commitment during 1994. Mrs. Wilma Holmes Toole, North Atlantic Regional Conference Director presided over the conference.

Lamya D. Clarke, president of Beta Alpha Omega chapter received president of the year award. The chapter received 3rd place for graduate chapter display, North Atlantic Regional Director's Star Award for outstanding

"Black Family Program" and a certificate of recognition for achieving the goals of the International Program Committee. The chapter also received a certificate of recognition for 100 percent Educational Advancement Fund participation and recognition for an EAF phonation.

The chapter's current programs focus on "Building the Future: The Alpha Kappa Alpha Strategy: Making the Net Work." Areas of concern are Mathematics and Science Literacy, Partners with the American Red Cross, The Black Family, Senior Residence Center, a Washington, D.C. Presence, and the Business Roundtable.

NJAWBO appoints new board

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Middlesex Chapter New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners appoints its Executive Board for 1995-96 at a dinner June 6 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick.

Serving as Chapter leadership for the new term are:

President: Michele C. Castaline, In The Cards, Executive Greetings, North Brunswick

VP administration—Linda Principe, Linda Principe Interiors, Cranbury

VP member services—Joan Oldney, CRT Support Corp., South Amboy

VP public affairs—Lauren Cook, Wolfcat Productions, East

Brunswick
VP marketing—LaurieBeth Goldman, MBA, Marketing Consultant, Piscataway

VP programs—Dawn Blajian, Expressive Interiors, Milltown
Secretary—Leah Spiegel, Catering By Leah, North Brunswick

Nominations chair—Annette Roth, Peerless Business Forms, Metuchen

Past president—Ellen Silverman, Ellen Silverman Advertising, East Brunswick

The installation of new officers was performed by Sandra Newman, Past President, New Brunswick, a past Middlesex Chapter president and NJAWBO State president elect.

Professional Directory

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NATION

Randal Robinson honored by U.S. Committee for UNICEF

National News at a glance

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION "NOT DEAD YET"

Some legal experts believe the Supreme Court's 5 to 4 decision in the Colorado Adarand highway contracting case still leaves some ground for policies that give minorities preferential access to federal contracts. Black Congressman Kweisi Mfume (D-Md.) says, "Despite several erroneous news stories that pronounced affirmative action dead, these laws still stand. Although the Supreme Court ruled that affirmative action laws must meet a stricter standard, the court explicitly stated both the need to address racism and discrimination and affirmed the government's role in eradicating it." Many black civil leaders say minority contractors' support in the community would be increased if contracts from the government had requirements that minority contractors make more financial and employment contributions to the minority community.

WASHINGTON, DC

BLACK UNITED FUND UNVEILS BLACK CREDIT CARD

The Black United Fund of Pennsylvania, along with other Black United Funds across the country and People's Bank of Bridgeport, CT, have unveiled a Black United Fund People's Bank MasterCard credit card. This is the first unsecured credit card in the nation for the African-American community offered by MasterCard. The low-interest credit card will increase the availability of credit to African Americans and other communities, as well as provide funding for Black United Fund organizations across the country. For information, contact Black United Fund of Pennsylvania at (215) 732-9206 or (800) 426-1114.

BRIDGEPORT, CT

WHO'S WHO IN BLACK CORPORATE AMERICA?

Forty-four-year-old Ann M. Fudge has been named president of Maxwell House Coffee, a \$1.4 billion-a-year business within the Philip Morris Companies' Kraft Foods division. Fudge, who holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard University, is professionally regarded as one of the top 20 women in American industry.

WASHINGTON, DC

NPCBW TO MEET IN SEATTLE

The National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NPCBW), who launched the "war" against gangsta rap two years ago, is holding its Biennial Convention, July 5-9, at the Red Lion Hotel in Seattle. The convention, which will feature U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun (D-Ill.) as keynote speaker, will mark the organization's 10th year of service in the areas of political and economic empowerment of African American women. NPCBW chair Dr. G. Delores Tucker recently led an attack on Time Warner and its saturation of the music industry with misogynist "gangsta" rap music. One of the objectives of the convention is to organize its next steps in its campaign to stop the distribution of degrading music to black children.

SEATTLE, WA

BLACK MAYORS REACH RECORD NUMBER

According to the National Conference of Black Mayors, the election of 382 black mayors nationwide has helped create a new and unprecedented potential for African Americans to organize and influence political forces in the U.S. "With 382 black mayors, we represent more than 20 million Americans," said Dr. Robert B. Ingram at the group's 21st convention in Memphis, the city where W.W. Henderson is mayor. Ingram is mayor of Opa-Locka, Fla., and president of the organization.

WASHINGTON, DC

DIANA ROSS RETURNS TO HER ROOTS FOR ALBUM SHOOT

Diana Ross, famous for her stints with the Supremes and individual

See NEWS/page 13

NEW YORK, NY—The U.S. Committee for UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, held an awards luncheon on Friday, June 16 to commemorate the Day of the African Child and present the "Africa's Future Award" to Randal Robinson, executive director of TransAfrica and TransAfrica Forum.

Present at the awards luncheon were Randal Robinson, Dr. Gwendolyn Calvert Baker, president and chief executive officer of the U.S.

Committee for UNICEF, and Edward James Olmos, a national ambassador for the Committee.

The "Africa's Future Award" is presented annually by the Committee to a prominent individual who has demonstrated a strong commitment to African and African-American issues and initiatives. Previous recipients have included performer Harry Belafonte, NBC "Today" Anchor Bryant Gumbel, publisher John Johnson, and former First Lady of

New York State Matilda Cuomo. Robinson was selected to receive the award in recognition of his lifetime achievements to inform the American public and influence U.S. policy makers about Africa.

Over the years, TransAfrica and TransAfrica Forum have emerged as leading foreign policy groups on issues related to Africa, the Caribbean, human rights and democracy, and economic, political, and social concerns of developing and underdeveloped countries.



Randal Robinson, (c) executive director of TransAfrica, displays his award. Robinson is accompanied by Dr. Gwendolyn Calvert Baker, president and CEO of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, and actor Edward James Olmos. Photo by Larry Lettera.

Blacks in Government decries Adarand decision as major step backwards

by Oscar Eason, Jr.

The U.S. Supreme Court has taken a giant step backwards from its stance of the past 30 years with regard to race in this country. The decision in Adarand Constructors v. Peña will make it harder for the federal government to encourage and promote equal opportunity in a variety of federal programs by curbing the extent to which it can demand affirmative measures.

However, we believe the decision is clearly not a total disaster. The Court does not invalidate affirmative action; it makes it harder for the government to mandate programs that require affirmative action. These programs will need to present more compelling evidence that they are necessary, effective, and designed to end past discrimination. They will be subjected to a "strict scrutiny" standard of judicial review.

We believe most federal programs can meet this standard. We believe that past discrimination has resulted in numerous present ills that are being addressed by these programs and that the government should be able to prove a compelling social interest in redressing these ills. Despite its critics, we see no alternative to affirmative action as a legal requirement that places the burden of proof on government, employers, colleges and other purveyors of opportunity to ensure that they are providing such opportunity equally to all Americans.

Blacks in Government (BIG), as a national organization of African-American public servants, believes that government must be held to a high standard of equity and excellence. Our more than 250 chapters drawn from more than 2.5 million African-American public servants employed by federal, state and local

governments are a recognition of the need for affirmative efforts to address discrimination in the workplace. The standard of equal protection under the law is set in the constitution and in the laws of the land. The Court has not rejected affirmative action as that standard; it has required that government exercise greater care in its implementation. We will continue to hold the government to these standards to insure that large segments of the public are not excluded from the promise of a better life.

Oscar Eason, Jr. is president of BIG.

Elections

Continued from page 1

4,092 were accepted as qualified candidates.

However, the congressman concurred with the opinion of USAID officials that it is too early for a definitive evaluation of the election.

"We want to be sure that all reports of irregularities are fully investigated. If necessary, corrective action may be taken. It is important that the Haitian people have confidence in

the integrity of the election."

The congressman has visited Haiti six times since the 1991 military coup which forced the democratically-elected President Bertrand Aristide from power. After the U.S. dispatched 20,000 troops to Haiti last fall, Aristide was restored to the presidency. The congressman returned to Haiti with Aristide for his historic

See ELECTIONS/page 12

Community Home Mortgages

A MORTGAGE SHOULDN'T COME BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR FIRST HOME.

House bans aid to Mauritania until slavery ends

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A proposal by U.S. Rep. Dick Zimmer to cut off foreign aid to the government of Mauritania until the West African nation takes meaningful action to eliminate slavery was approved on the House floor recently.

Zimmer's proposal, part of a larger "no bloc" amendment, was approved by voice vote during debate on the American Overseas Interests Act. It would prohibit all economic assistance, military assistance and arms transfers to Mauritania. For aid to resume, the Mauritanian government would have to rigorously enforce anti-slavery laws.

"The possession of slaves is a common practice in Mauritania, even though the country officially abolished slavery three times, most recently in 1980," said Zimmer, whose amendment was based on legislation he introduced earlier this year.

Although the government of Mauritania denies the existence of slavery, the state department's 1995 Country Reports on Human Rights states that up to 90,000 Mauritaniens live under "conditions of involuntary servitude."

"The practice of chattel slavery has endured in Mauritania with all but outright government blessing," said Zimmer. "America shouldn't condone violations of human rights with monetary aid."

A 1994 report by Human Rights Africa found that slavery is just one of the abuses imposed on the black Mauritians by the ruling Arab Mauritians in an effort to "Arabize" the nation. The abuses include murder, torture, expulsion and land seizures.

The State Department suspended most development aid to Mauritania several years ago because of human rights abuses.

Zimmer said his legislation, by adding force of law to the suspension, would send an economic message to Mauritania. "By adopting this amendment we are declaring that America cannot and will not financially support a government that sanctions the practice of slavery," Zimmer said.

At First Fidelity, we believe that a mortgage should help you achieve your dreams, not hinder you. So we created Community Home Mortgages.

One of these reduced rate mortgage products was specifically developed to help low

and moderate-income families to afford their first home. We call this special financing program the First Fidelity New Jersey Coalition Mortgage.

A New Jersey Coalition Mortgage is more affordable than most other mortgages. It includes reduced fixed rates, a low down payment, limited closing costs, no points, a reduced application fee and many other special features that can make your dream of owning a home a reality.

Take the first step towards owning your first home.



Visit one of our offices or call our Mortgage Help Desk at 1-800-742-5449 any weekday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Talk to a financial counselor about any of our Community Home Mortgage products or our

other specialty services like Home Improvement Loans, Secured Credit Cards and Discount Checking and Savings Accounts. At First Fidelity, it's all part of our ongoing commitment to the people and communities where we work and live.

New Jersey Coalition Mortgage

- Reduced Rates
- Limited Closing Costs
- No Points
- Reduced Application Fee
- Low Down Payment
- Mortgage Help Desk 1-800-742-5449



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PINK AS I SEE IT...

EDITORIAL

Social and economic independence

This recent Fourth of July holiday must certainly cause us to reflect on the great paradox of our society. We live in a society that appears to be at the height of freedom (the Ku Klux Klan marches freely through streets, bombs explode around, women bare their breasts during parades, militia group membership is at an all time high, flag burning is in vogue and teens feel free to encode "Kill all niggers" in yearbook memos). However, access to economic opportunity and freedom are more elusive than ever.

For African-Americans, social freedoms have always been the mainstay of our protest voice. After years of struggle we can now enjoy and pay for the same kinds of things as whites. What is so special about this, it just sounds like good business sense. Now whites have their money and our money.

But what happens when it comes to those conditions necessary for economic freedom? Recently, the Supreme Court, with the help of Congress and backing from the "old boys' club" have stressed the fact that economic and political freedom for blacks does not make the cut. Apparently, there is more respect for flag burning than for African-American business people who come to the push for economic freedom and empowerment. Herein may lie the problem.

While social freedom established a new foundation for African-Americans, economic freedom threatens the foundation of the existing power structure. Eating at a counter is a far cry from owning the restaurant, employing local residents and creating community wealth. Who needs a counter? While some may argue that an equals counter dependency, it can conversely be argued that independence is the centerpiece of this battle. Baring breasts and flag burning is born from a need for expression. The battle for access to opportunity is born from the need for freedom and self empowerment. We must not fall into the trap of letting the existing power structure take us out of cry for independence. We must continue to fight despite attacks at oppression. After all, we are only continuing in an American tradition.

From Death Row

An easy kill...

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

WAYNESBURG, PA.—Theroot of the legal term "trial" is the English word "try." At the root of every trial is the state prosecutor, who "tries" to convict the accused, using every means at his considerable disposal: the wealth of the state, the police, experts, and behind all, the power of government to compel, to intimidate, to destroy.

For far too many defendants, their meager resources are no match for the awesome resources of a government of millions, and the "battle" is lost before it is even truly begun.

One need look no further than that daily American true-life soap opera, "The Simpsons" (O.J., not Homer) where you have an enormous wealth of defendant holding his own with the state, as he fields, quite literally, some of the best legal talent money can buy.

Consider if his name was, say, "O.J. Jackson," and he was an average, poor Joe, with a mortgage, a seven-year-old car, and alimony to pay. Given the same set of facts, isn't it the simple unvarnished truth that O.J. would be on Death Row by now, facing two death sentences?

What does this have to do with "justice" in America? I thought of these things after my death warrant was signed recently, and I read, sorry where, that the prosecutor at my trial, Joseph McGill, remarked that it "was the strongest case I ever tried."

My first thought was, if that was so, why did he feel the need to argue the following at the guilt/innocence stage of the trial:

"If your decision of course, were to acquit, to allow the defendant to walk out, that is fine. There is nothing I can do and there is nothing that will judge or anyone could do that would effect that in any way.

"If you find the defendant guilty, of course, there would be appeal after appeal and perhaps there would be a reversal of the case or, whatever, so that that may not be final" (From *Commonwealth vs. Abu-Jamal*, 7/18/2, p. 146).

Why would a prosecutor, one wonders, tell a jury such a thing, in his "strongest case ever tried"? But, of course, in this life, all things are relative, as are the terms "strong" or "weak." For instance, most men think of women as "the weaker sex," but if men had to give birth the very thought would make most faint.

by Connie Woodruff

For some strange reason East Orange politicians keep the city in the glare of public opinion.

Just when things seem to cool down in this trouble-plagued city, another issue of major proportions crops up and elected officials and their supporters are off and running on another screaming match from the mayor's office to the city council to the committee men and women representing rank and file voters.

The latest political hijinks to capture public attention was the June 1 ouster of Connie Newton as East Orange city clerk.

After more than 20 years as a public servant and private citizen involved directly and indirectly in city politics, it had Newton had to learn the hard way that survival in the political jungle

is not about how much dues one pays or how well one does a job, but survival often hinges on the whims of the people in power at a given period of time.

Unfortunately Newton may have been too busy doing the right thing she may have not noticed a change in the political winds blowing at her back and the technical snafu that cost her a job she advanced to with the retirement of her successor, Earl Williams.

Newton had been city clerk since December 3, 1991 and was the first African-American woman city clerk in the state. Last year the Municipal Clerks Association elected her state president and immediately improved East Orange's image statewide.

Newton reminded the city council she was up for reappointment in December 1994 and was told the

matter would be taken care of, suggesting that in the interim period she would remain in the clerk's job for another six months.

She agreed erroneously thinking that the six months was simply an extension of her term that expired last December, knowing that reappointment would grant her automatic tenure as clerk.

However, a council resolution passed on December 12, 1994 stressed the measure carried a six month time limit stating that Newton would remain a holdover city clerk until the governing body's member, "decided whether to reappoint her to another term as city clerk," according to corporation counsel Sibbhan A. Teare.

Apparently the council took no further official action on the position of clerk until May 30 when council Chairman Mark Scotland learned of

the impending June 1 expiration of Newton's holdover post. He alerted Newton and the entire council of the predicament, informing council that Newton needed a majority vote to keep her city clerk job.

The council advised the city clerk's job in the June 10 edition of *The Star-Ledger*, informing council that Newton needed a majority vote to keep her city clerk job.

During the public portion of that night's council meeting, the governing body, along with Mayor Cardell Cooper as the tie-breaking vote, decided in favor of Moore as city clerk over Newton and Davis.

Moore was just recently classifi-

See A1 SE/2page 12

Authority workers settle for 'clump change' after two-year lawsuit

by Julian K. Robinson

Two recent developments at the New Jersey Highway Authority, which manages the Garden State Parkway, would seem to confirm the adage that "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

In the first, an out-of-court settlement was reached in early June in the suit of four African-American employees who had alleged racism and discrimination in employment practices and conditions at the Highway Authority. Because of my experience from 1970 to 1994 as a commissioner, the only African American in its 42-year history, of this autonomous state agency, I was among those asked to give testimony in an oral deposition prior to the settlement.

My experiences and observations during those sixteen years had convinced me that not only the four plaintiffs, but all African-American employees at the New Jersey Highway Authority, have a valid legal complaint of monumental proportions. Among its most blatant offenses, such a complaint would list the following:

- The discriminatory manner in which the four plaintiffs have been treated since they helped organize and establish Legacy, the organization of minority employees at the Highway Authority.
- The equally discriminatory manner in which the Authority's two highest ranking African-American employees were terminated in 1990 and 1994 respectively.
- The outrageous circumstances of the demotion of an African-American woman employee after she suffered a stroke several years ago.
- The total lack of even minimum principles of affirmative action in the hiring of the Authority's last two executive directors.

It pains me deeply, therefore, to learn that after more than two years of marshaling and organizing their compelling facts and allegations, the plaintiffs, presumably on the advice of counsel, have accepted a measly award of \$37,000 (not \$37,000 each, but \$37,000 in total) to fold their tents and fade quietly back into the Authority's depressing status quo. The enormity of their tragedy becomes apparent when the sum of their two-year legal fees of \$35,400 is subtracted from the award, leaving each of the four the princely sum of \$400.

In any glossary of ghetto terms and expressions, this must surely rank high as a prime example of settling for "clump change."

Coincidentally, as if to very deliberately reaffirm and under-score their total disdain for minority employees and the minority community, Highway Authority executives announced their decision to no longer permit minority employees to publish a column in the Authority's periodic in-house newspaper, *The Parkway Reporter*. For the past three years, that publication has included a column entitled "Legacy's View," prepared by members of the aforementioned organization of minority employees.

Typical of topics covered in "Legacy's View," all relatively innocuous, have been the following:

- A description of Legacy and rationale for its formation;
- Commemorations of Black History Month;
- Support for the appointment of an African-American woman as a commissioner of the Highway Authority;
- affirmative action status reports;
- Legacy activity reports;
- Open invitations for legacy membership (not limited to minorities) to all employees of the Highway Authority;
- Kwanzaa greetings in December.

Moreover, the Legacy leadership in May 1992 willingly responded to management's request for support when the Authority felt threatened by legislative action in Tren-

ton. In seeking now to muzzle this vibrant minority voice, that same management seems to have completely forgotten Legacy's excellent letter to the Assembly's Transportation Committee opposing the then threatened elimination of tolls and the transfer of Parkway administration to the state's Department of Transportation. The white corporate memory is indeed a device of convenience...and extreme shorts.

Inasmuch as the masthead of *The Parkway Reporter* proclaims it to be "a newspaper by and for the employees of the New Jersey Highway Authority," it's hard to imagine how Highway Authority executives will explain the rationale for the latest of their arrogant decisions.

To many, including this writer,

it's no more than a mean-spirited, vindictive example of the institutional racism which prompted the suit by four African-American employees originally.

Particularly in view of all we have heard and read of Governor Whitman's alleged interest in promoting cultural and ethnic diversity through her "Many Faces One Family" initiative, it seems to me sadly ironic that a public agency managed by Whitman appointees has decided to stifle one of that family's significant voices.

And perhaps the saddest postscript of all to this sorry episode is that Legacy was one of the small number of African-American organizations which publicly endorsed candidate Whitman in September '93.

Mr. President: open markets, or affirmative action?

by Asika Muhammad

Mr. President, maybe you can help me understand something. How does the insistence by your administration that we Americans lead in this country argue that positive, or "affirmative" goals and timetables should be employed by the government and major corporations which tax and make profits from black consumers, in order to "level the playing field," which has been tilted in favor of whites against blacks, by 300 years of slavery and 130 years of overt racial discrimination? White opponents of affirmative action, on the other hand, insist that affirmative action amounts to unacceptable "quotas," which they say result in unfair "reverse discrimination."

Your trade negotiators successfully pointed out in negotiations just concluded that American-made vehicles amount to less than 1 percent of the total cars sold in this country, while males make up 95 percent of all top corporate managers and business leaders.

Japanese trade negotiators scolded this country, saying that Americans are unwilling to compete, and that's why Detroit manufacturers—Ford, Chrysler and General Motors—have failed to penetrate the Japanese market. They also point out that since 1991, Japanese purchases of U.S. made auto parts have doubled.

Likewise, angry white males in this country criticize affirmative action programs for blacks, promoting "unqualified" minority group members and businesses ahead of better qualified whites, or white-owned firms which make lower competitive bids. They claim that affirmative action has "done enough already," increasing the proportion of minority group participation in the American mainstream.

Mr. President, your administration (and the white, male, conservatives in Congress who support your negotiating position) insisted that Japan must open up what were the years became the most closed economy of any industrialized democracy. The Japanese, however, claimed U.S. demands for specific targets for the purchase of U.S. made parts and vehicles would force them to accept form of "managed trade" that would erode the principles of

free trade. That Tokyo says, would distort the market by forcing companies to fulfill purchasing quotas.

African-American leaders in this country argue that positive, or "affirmative" goals and timetables should be employed by the government and major corporations which tax and make profits from black consumers, in order to "level the playing field," which has been tilted in favor of whites against blacks, by 300 years of slavery and 130 years of overt racial discrimination. White opponents of affirmative action, on the other hand, insist that affirmative action amounts to unacceptable "quotas," which they say result in unfair "reverse discrimination."

We successfully concluded negotiations with Japan in Geneva this week, the U.S. argued that targets are the only way to measure whether Japan is living up to any agreement to improve its automotive industry, and to put more U.S. made parts in their cars. Black Americans have said the same thing about affirmative action since it was first offered, more than 30 years ago, as a remedy to centuries of racism and discrimination against blacks in this country.

The U.S., a sovereign nation, was

on the verge of imposing "tariffs," or taxes on selected Japanese automobiles imported into this country. Minority group members who have led boycotts against products sold by offensive and insensitive corporations, have often been accused of illegal "secondary boycotts," and have even been prosecuted and intimidated by legal authorities for their actions.

If only black consumers could put fences and toll booths around their segregated communities, to collect tolls from black consumers, and to force goods and services sold to them by groups which live outside their boundaries, then maybe they might earn the same kind of respect and success President Clinton garnered in winning this trade dispute with Japan.

Or how about this for a novel idea? Suppose all the white American trade experts who defended tough U.S. action in order to open up Japanese markets to U.S. trade, would just substitute the plight of blacks and other minority group members (which they don't seem to be able to understand) in the "affirmative action war," for the positions they are well able to defend in the narrowly avowed American-Japanese "Trade War."

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YOUTH BEAT

KIDS CALENDAR

DAY CAMPS:
PLAINFIELD—Day Camp for youth with developmental disabilities. For more info contact The Arc of Union County at 908-754-2509.

CRANFORD—Eight Summer Sports Camp for youth 8 to 15 sponsored by the Union County College and Union County Division of Parks and Rec. For more info call 908-709-7602.

PLAINFIELD—Summerfest daycamp for Plainfield girls in grades 1-5. For more info call 908-232-0236.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5
VCR ALERT—Cartoon Planet on TBS at 3:05 p.m.

JULY 5 & 6
SUMMIT—Hands-on art activities for children ages 2-5, and their adult companions (painting, printing, puppets, masks and more) at the NJ Center for Visual Arts. For more info call 908-273-9121.

JULY 5 & 9
NEW YORK—"Blowing in the Breeze" workshop for youth ages 8-10 to design their own wind chimes at the Children's Museum of the Arts. For more info call 212-941-9196.

JULY 8-12
EDISON—"Introduction to African-American Folklore" course for youth ages 8-16 at Middlesex County College. For more info call 908-906-2556.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12
NEWARK—Brer Rabbit and the Wonderful Tar Baby and How the Leopard Got His Spots (movies) at the Newark Museum for youth ages 5 and up. Show time is 1 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6550.

THURSDAY, JULY 13
METUCHEN—"Snow White" (play) at the Forum Theater at 10 a.m. For more info call 908-548-0582.

THRU JULY 14
ATTENTION—"College for Kids" and "Academy" sessions for schoolchildren of all ages at Union County College (all campuses). For more info call 908-709-7600.

TUESDAY, JULY 18
METUCHEN—"The Wizard of Oz" (play) at the Forum Theater at 10 a.m. For more info call 908-548-0582.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19
NEWARK—Ayojob and Calabro (African films) for youth 5 and up at the Newark Museum. Show time is 1 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6550.

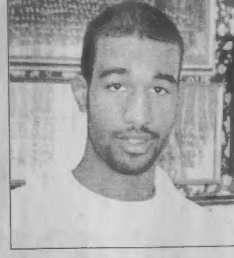
NEWARK—And The Children Shall Lead for youth 12 and up at the Newark Museum. Show time is 1 p.m. For more info call 201-596-6550.

JULY 31 THRU AUGUST 10
CRANFORD—Newcamp '95 a two-week program designed to strengthen writing skills through journalism techniques for youth grades 6-12 at Union County College. For more info call 908-709-7601.

ATTENTION:
JERSEY CITY—Registration for the "Readers of the Round Table" club at the Jersey City Public Library thru July 14. For more info call your nearest local branch.

PATERSON—Summer Vacation Reading Club at the Paterson Free Public Library thru August 24. For more info call 201-357-3002.

ELIZABETH—1995 TEEN ARTS Touring Exhibit thru July 7 in the Union County Administration Building, 6th fl. For more info call 908-598-2550 or 1-800-852-7899.



UNION—Kenisha McMillan (l) of Memorial High School in West New York and Lakes Brown (c) and Karl S. Deane of Plainfield High School were named 1995 Dr. James E. Dorsey Scholars at an awards banquet held at Kean College of New Jersey. The scholarship program honors the late Dr. James E. Dorsey, professor of music and the first full-time minority faculty member at the College. Dorsey Scholars are in the upper 10 percent of their high school graduating class and are recommended by their counselors on the basis of their academic performances, leadership and potential contributions to school, community and society in general.



A license to drive the I-Way

LINDEN—Seventh grade students from St. Theresa School in Linden proudly display their award for top honors at the NatWest Class of 2000 "I-Way 2000 Expo." In an exhibit themed "Techno 2000" the students illustrated ways they felt the information Highway will influence their lives. The class won the first place for participating Union County schools. Pictured are the winning students receiving their plaque from a NatWest representative.

Photo by Ali Is Sharp Photography

Newark Library announces 'Create-A-Book Challenge' winners



Contest first place winners Wally Hachil (l) and Holly Cardoso (r) show off their creations with author Michael Bryant.

NEWARK—During "Children's Book Week" the Newark Public Library invited children to enter its Create-A-Book contest.

Participants entered according to their grade level: pre-K to grade three and grade four through eighth. In creating their book contests we allowed to write about a true or fictional character and should create the book by themself.

Prizes were awarded to the top three winners and honorable mentions in each group. The first-place winners received autographed copies

of books by noted children's author Michael Bryant.

First place in the pre-K to grade category went to Holly Cardoso. Wally Hachil won first place in the fourth through eighth grade category.

Cardoso is eight years old and a third-grade honor roll student at St. Anne School. She is a Brownie Girl Scout and a member of a little league team.

Hachil is a 12 year-old eighth-grader at Mt. Vernon School. His ambition is to become a pediatrician because he wants to "stay healthy and smart."

BOOKWORM & THE AFROCENTRIC KIDS™

Story by Greg Morehead

Artwork by Darnell Bradley



Summer dance program available for students

NEWARK—The New Jersey Performing Arts Center along with the Newark Board of Education is sponsoring a Summer Youth Development Dance Program to continue dance studies for elementary students who participated during the school year.

The program will be held at four Newark schools. Each school will offer one week of dance in either modern, tap or Western African dance. Free lunch will also be provided. Classes are open to students who participated in the After School Youth Development Dance Program during the year.

Participating schools include: Roberto Clemente School—Modern Dance on July 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

Miller Street School—Modern Dance on July 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18.

Peshine Avenue School—West African Dance on July 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

Lafayette School—Tap Dance on July 12, 13, 14, 17 and 20.

All sessions will be held from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. For additional information contact Einarlo Webster at 201-733-7344.

UCC students receive athletic scholarships



Tonya Miller of Irvington (center) and Amy Tirrell of Plainfield, students at Union County College, Cranford, display Athletic Scholarship awards received during recent scholarship reception. Congratulating them is Dr. Thomas H. Brown, Union County College president.

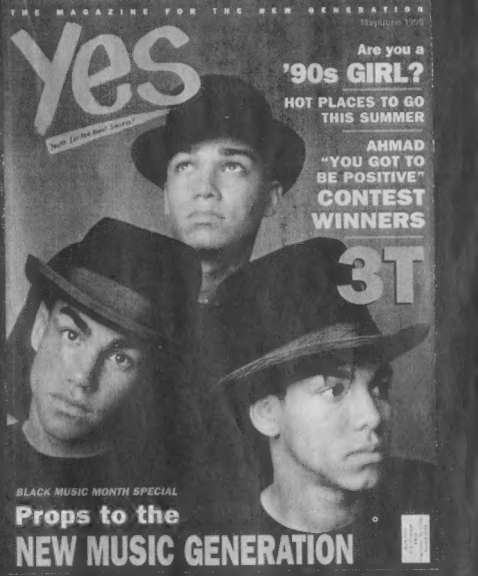
Library begins summer hours

NEWARK—The Main Library, located at 5 Washington St., will be open from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, all other weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Sundays.

The branch libraries will be open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, all other weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Business Information Center, 34 Commerce St., will be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday.

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Philip Morris a program created sales to

ACTION against ACCESS

At Philip Morris we have always believed that minors should not smoke, nor should they have access to cigarettes. Period. Smoking is—and must remain—strictly an adult choice.

Much has been done over the years to limit youth access to cigarettes, including our support for the passage of legislation which made it illegal in all 50 states to sell cigarettes to minors.

Now, we are doing even more.

Philip Morris USA has just launched



Pack Notices

We will place a notice on all of our packs and cartons: "Underage sale prohibited."



Sampling

We will not distribute free samples of our cigarettes to consumers.



Mailing Cigarettes

We will not distribute our cigarettes to consumers through the mail.



Retail Payments

We will deny merchandising benefits to retailers who are fined for or convicted of selling cigarettes to minors.



Vending

We will join with others in seeking state legislation to prevent minors' access to cigarettes in vending machines.

announces to prevent cigarette minors.

Action Against Access, a comprehensive voluntary program to combat the issue of youth access.

Philip Morris will take action in several ways to prevent minors from having access.

Our goal is to ensure that the only way to legally purchase cigarettes will be when proof of age can be checked in person.

☐ There are things we can directly control, and can do on our own. And we are.

☐ Some initiatives must be undertaken in cooperation with others. On these, we are

committed to taking a leadership role.

☐ And yet other actions will require collaborative and widespread support for passage of effective state legislation.

We will vigorously pursue them as well.

Action Against Access puts a strong, integrated program squarely where our commitment is: preventing minors from having access to cigarettes.

The bottom line is simple: the best way to keep kids away from cigarettes is to keep cigarettes away from kids.



Logo Usage

We will intensify our efforts to prevent the use of our brand names or logos on any items marketed to minors, especially video games.



Minimum Age Signs

We will vigorously support posting of minimum-age signage in all retail outlets.



Retail Compliance

We will assist retailers in complying with minimum-age laws by providing our "Ask First!" materials and by funding retailer education programs.



Supervised Sales

We will join with others to seek state legislation to require that all cigarettes be sold in sight of—or under the direct control of—a sales clerk.



Licensing

We will join with others to seek state legislation calling for reasonable cigarette retail licensing requirements in all 50 states.

The best way to keep kids away from cigarettes
is to keep cigarettes away from kids.



PHILIP MORRIS U.S.A.

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JULY 8

PISCATAWAY—A Gospel Extravaganza at North Station AME Church at 7 p.m. For more info call 908-287-5184 or 201-377-6510.

JULY 10-15

PLAINFIELD—Awesome Adventures—God's Amazing Deeds (Vacation Bible School) at First Park Baptist Church from 6 to 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-756-5322.

AUGUST 10-12

CRAWFORD—"Jesus Christ Super Star" a play at First Presbyterian Church. For more info call 908-551-7282.

HEALTH CALENDAR

EAST ORANGE—North Jersey Blood Bank is looking for donors over 18. For more info call 1-800-BLOOD NJ.

ATTENTION DONORS:

PLAINFIELD—Apheresis Donations, collection of specific components of blood, at Marlborough Regional Medical Center. For more info call 1-800-286-2568.

THURSDAY, JULY 6

BELLE MEAD—"Depersonalization and Self-Injurious Behavior" at the Carver Foundation from noon to 1 p.m. For more info call 908-281-1461.

MONDAY, JULY 10

WESTFIELD—Support group for people caring for the elderly or chronically ill at 8 p.m. at St. Helen's Church. For more info call 908-233-8757.

JULY 10 & 11

CRAWFORD—Practical Clinical Approaches to Diagnosing and Treating Chemical Dependency, Part I and II and "Religious Traditions and Spiritual Health as They Relate to Chemical Dependency, Parts I and II" at Union County College from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7600.

JULY 10-14

CRAWFORD—"Reality Therapy Put to Use" five-day 50 credit seminar at Union County College from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-399-8652.

JULY 13, 20

IRVINGTON—Community High Blood Pressure Control Program, sponsored by the Dept. of Health's Nursing Division, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-399-8652.

Newark resident Alonzo Johnson heads for seminary

BLOOMFIELD—At this time of year, thousands of college graduates stand at a crossroads in their lives, uncertain of which path will lead to satisfying careers.

However, for Alonzo Johnson, a recent graduate of Bloomfield College, the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in Kentucky will be his next career step.

Johnson will begin the Seminary's three-year, Masters in Divinity program this fall. After that, he says, "My plans will unfold as I continue to take my steps."

Johnson's journey has not been an easy one. He grew up in Newark, in a neighborhood that he describes as, "a morally bankrupt part of society." His parents made him attend church, but at the age of 15, he recalls, "I was very rebellious and didn't find much meaning in services."

In 1984, through a friend, he became active in the Hillside Presbyterian Church youth group and loved it so he decided to stay on. "I was struck by the relaxed, friendly and down-to-earth atmosphere at the church and really felt at home."

While he admits his early experience at Hillside Presbyterian Church

lacked a "spiritual basis," he became very involved in the youth group and befriended the minister.

"John Vaughn was so well-educated in biblical concepts and in general areas of knowledge. He helped me understand God, which challenged me to believe. I moved into a more spiritual realm and began to understand what God is doing for us in our lives."

When he was 16, Johnson's father died. "I was unprepared to handle his death and went through a very hard time. But his death awakened something in me and I began going to church more often. I felt the Lord was holding me in his power."

Johnson later became close friends with a minister at the Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, who first suggested that the young man had a calling in the ministry.

"I was 19 or 20," Johnson recalls, "and I wrestled with the calling. I was frightened. I couldn't live up to everyone's high expectations. I saw too many obstacles."

Johnson says he prayed about the situation and later accepted the call, "trusting what the Lord would do for me. The Lord opened the doors and I

just had to take that first step and walk through."

A few days before graduation this past May, he said, "I am proud of my Bloomfield education. The professors I've had have been a blessing, and I am very grateful to them."

"Alonzo has helped enrich the Bloomfield College community," said college president John F. Noonan added, "and we will miss him. We feel honored to have played a part in preparing him for his future endeavors."

According to Johnson, "The quest for intelligence has been challenging. For African-American men, the academic walk is a difficult one. You open up your world and your mind and find you can't go home again. You feel out of place in your old neighborhood."

Attending school has also meant financial sacrifices. For the past six years, Johnson has worked part-time at Sears Point and Hardware in Union to pay for books and other expenses. Through the years, however, he was fortunate to receive a good deal of financial support from Central Pres-



Alonzo Johnson in conversation with college president John F. Noonan. Photo courtesy of Bloomfield College.

byterian Church in Summit.

"The congregation saw my need and responded generously," he said. "Their pastor Riley Jensen was also so very helpful. It is so important to have someone encouraging you and helping you along the way. Now I feel like it is my turn to extend a

helping hand. The Lord is making me a tool for that."

Johnson hopes to work with young people in the inner city as a parish minister, but will not rule out going for a doctorate in religion, psychology, or philosophy and pursuing work as a teacher.

Newark targets fitness for teens and adults

NEWARK—The Newark Board of Education's Summer Youth Education Program will conduct a free five-week fitness program open to teens and adults beginning Wednesday, July 5 at Chancellor Avenue School Annex.

The sessions which include a nutrition workshop from 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m. and an aerobic training session from

6:15 to 7:30 p.m. will be held Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Discussions will include How to Take a Pulse, The Benefits of Exercise, The Food Pyramid, Weight Control and Stress.

For additional information please contact: Arlene Henry or Einarlo Webster at 201-733-7344.

Plainfield seniors celebrate Seniors Recognition Month

PLAINFIELD—The seniors' population at Richmond Towers has been very busy during Seniors Recognition Month.

The Richmond Towers Residents' Association celebrated its 20th annual Cabaret on May 1. This year's event also culminates 20 years of successful fund raising. The previous

donations were used to pay rent on a van provided by the city to transport residents of Richmond Towers.

Mayor Mark Furey, Councilwoman Urquhart and LHA executive director, Richard Fox, presented a 20th-year plaque and resolution of appreciation to the Residents' Association.

Singing for South Africa's future

PISCATAWAY—A gospel extravaganza to benefit an underserved South African workforce will be held at the North Station AME Church in Piscataway on Saturday, July 8, 1995 at 7 p.m. Open to the public, the concert features the North Station AME Church Mass Choir, contemporary gospel artists Gratitude and soloist Jenny Thompson. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds benefit the South African Leadership Development Project (SALDP).

SALDP is a newly formed non-profit corporation committed to educating middle management black

South Africans in the United States.

Dr. Molefi Kete SALDP founding director, explains, "They will intern with American corporations and get the unique opportunity to enhance their professional, educational and cultural development. Our goal is to empower and train black South African businesses through today's rapidly changing market and into a brighter future. We are test piloting the program in New Jersey but anticipate expanding it nationwide." Fairleigh Dickinson University's Madison campus will provide the initial courses and accommoda-

tions for the interns at reduced rates.

The North Station AME Church has supported Mofse since SALDP's inception. "Our church is committed to Modise's vision," said Warren D'Adderio, church treasurer and music director. "This concert enables us to rejoice over the freedom of our brothers and sisters in South Africa and helps SALDP gather financial support to assist talented South Africans."

The North Station AME Church is located at 123 Craig Ave. in Piscataway. For more information about the concert, contact the church at 908-287-5184 or the SALDP office at 201-377-6910.

Philip Morris announces campaign to stop youth smoking

NEW YORK—Philip Morris U.S.A. launched a new initiative to attack the problem of youth smoking.

The program—Action Against Access—has been created to make it as difficult as possible for minors to purchase cigarettes.

"The best way to keep kids away from cigarettes is to keep cigarettes away from kids," said Philip Morris U.S.A. President and CEO James J. Morgan said, in announcing the program. "It includes unilateral steps such as discontinuing free cigarette sampling to consumers and the distribution of Philip Morris cigarettes by mail. The company also announced that it will include a notice on cartons and packs indicating that the sale of cigarettes to minors is prohibited."

In addition, the company indicated that it will withhold merchandise benefits from stores which are fined for or convicted of breaking minimum age laws. And Philip Morris U.S.A. will fund a major retail compliance training program called "Ask First! It's the Law" on how to ask for and verify proof of age for the purchase of cigarettes.

Beyond these unilateral steps, the company said that it would take a leadership role in working with others—including retailers—to pursue other voluntary and legislative initiatives to reduce youth access to cigarettes.

These will be based on the principle that every state should enact legislation establishing reasonable licensing requirements for the sale of cigarettes, requirements that cigarettes be under the sight or control

of sales clerks at all times, minimum age signage requirements, and restrictions on minors' access to cigarettes in vending machines.

"Once all of these initiatives are in place, it should only be possible to purchase cigarettes legally when proof of age can be checked in person," said Morgan. "This will take us a long way towards our goal—a marketplace where minors cannot buy cigarettes."

Morgan also announced that former U.S. Senator Warren B. Rudman (R-NH), a partner in the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, has agreed to serve as an independent auditor for Action Against Access. He will establish a process to ensure full implementation of all of the announced initiatives.

According to Philip Morris U.S.A., Action Against Access addresses many of the most significant components of the agenda proposed by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in their recommendations on youth access to cigarettes.

"We have no doubt that some of our critics will say that this initiative is broad as it is not enough," said Mr. Morgan. "But we believe that access is the critical issue which can make a difference in youth smoking and we are willing to take the steps to make a real difference."

"We believe Action Against Access represents a rational, effective approach to the key issue—how to prevent minors from smoking—and we believe that reasonable people will agree with us," Morgan said.

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BUSINESS

BUSINESS CALENDAR

THRU JULY 26
CRANFORD—Materials Management course on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more info call 908-709-7650.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5
SOUTH ORANGE, N.J.—"Business Protocol in the Pacific Rim" from 5 to 7 p.m. at Seton Hall. Call 201-378-9838.

JULY 18-13
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—NAACP Annual Convention, sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Call 410-358-8900.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12
SOUTH ORANGE, N.J.—"Business Protocol in the Pacific Rim" from 5 to 7 p.m. at Seton Hall. Call 201-378-9838.

JULY 16-23
DETROIT, MI—60th Annual National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Convention. Call 313-863-8230.

JULY 17, 18
NEW YORK—Retail Financial and Insurance Services Database Marketing Summit at The Trade Trade Institute. For more info call 212-398-0050.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19
CHICAGO—Mobe Apparel Sports Business Symposium at the DuSable Museum. For more info call 219-938-1888.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19
SOUTH ORANGE, N.J.—"Business Protocol in the Pacific Rim" from 5 to 7 p.m. at Seton Hall. Call 201-378-9838.

JULY 19-23
OAKLAND, CA—8th Annual Convention & African American Business Expo Affirmative Action: Dead or Alive Sponsored by the African American Chamber of Commerce at the Parc Oakland Hotel. Call 510-444-5741.

THURSDAY, JULY 20
NEWARK—Wage Record/UDI Financing and Unemployment Processes seminar at the Radisson Airport Hotel at 8:30 a.m. For more info call 609-984-6777.

THURSDAY, JULY 20
BRIDGEWATER—Advertising Techniques, Effective Direct Mail and Media Advertising, sponsored by the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce. Call 908-725-1552.

Sharpe James vows to build stadium for Newark

NEWARK—Mayor Sharpe James pledged his strong support for plans to build a baseball stadium in the city of Newark for the Gateway City-based franchise set to play in the new, six-team "Atlantic League of Professional Baseball (ALPB)" leading off in April 1997.

Several possible Newark sites are currently being reviewed, including Riverbank Park on Raymond Boulevard, according to James. Newark's ownership group is headed by former New York Yankees catcher Rick Cerone, who grew up in the city and played for Seton Hall University. "We haven't settled on a name yet, but we are looking forward to professional baseball in Newark. It's also great to have Mr. Cerone, a native son, spearheading the drive."

"We will find the money," the mayor pledged. "Newark already has the sports legacy of having a team in the old Negro Baseball League. I look forward to working together with the city Council and all others to bring baseball back to Newark. We

will get it done!"

The mayor continued, "I would like to see the stadium built near the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, due to open in 1996, because it would create an ideal cultural, sports, recreation and educational complex. Not only would the stadium give an economic boost to that area and the entire city of Newark, but it would provide a valuable, leisure-time resource facility to Newark citizens and it would instill a great sense of pride throughout the whole Gateway City community."

In addition to Newark, the ALPB includes: Charlottesville, Va., Lowell, Mass.; Long Island, N.Y. and Lehigh Valley, Penn. Two more franchises may be added this year, officials pointed out. All six municipalities are required to build stadiums seating 6,000 to 10,000 in time for the 1997 season. The new league expects to attract players who are not affiliated with any of the major-league teams or their minor-league farm clubs, ALPB officials noted.

MONEY STRATEGIES

Beware of 'too good to be true' lease deals

by Charles J. Givens

It is easy to get jerked around and never know it when leasing a car.

You are told there is no down payment, but you do deposit the first and last one or two months' payments. Cash is cash, whether you call it a deposit or a down payment.

Leasing generally does have lower payments. You are paying toward the principal or cost of the car only an amount equal to the depreciation of the car over the lease term. If you lease a \$20,000 car and the anticipated value in five years is \$7,000, the principal portion of your payments is enough to pay off only the \$13,000 difference. At the end of the lease

term, if you want the car you have to pay the \$7,000.

If you bought the car, your payments would be higher because the \$7,000 would be included in your payments. At the end of the term, you would own nothing and the car would be yours.

Usually leases limit the number of free miles you can drive. Typically you are limited to 15,000 miles per year, over which you may be charged 15 cents per mile. Drive 10,000 miles more than the limit and it costs you \$1,500 at the end of the lease.

You are also told leases don't have interest rates, only a lease factor. A lease factor is the decimal fraction that when multiplied times the total

cost of the vehicle gives you the monthly payment.

The lease factor is derived by determining the interest rate to be charged. You could be paying 14 percent, 18 percent, or 22 percent interest and never know it. Learn how to use a calculator to compute the real interest rate.

A lease requires high-limit liability insurance and low-deductible comprehensive and collision limits. The insurance requirements increase the real cost of driving the car the same as higher payments would.

There is no right or wrong answer. Never let emotion or desire creep into your car acquisition plan.



Mayor James was joined by William Celeste, director of the Newark Police Department (NPD) (third from the left) and Newark Police Chief Thomas O'Reilly (second from the right) as he addressed an audience of law enforcement officials and insurance representatives attending a breakfast forum of the "Newark Seminar '95" conference at the Radisson Hotel in Newark. This year, five of America's major auto-theft related organizations coordinated their efforts to form a comprehensive insurance fraud and vehicle theft conference, the largest in the Northeast in 1995. The anti-auto crimes conference, presented through the auspices of the NPD, began with a free public session and attracted law enforcement officers from across the country and around the world.

Photo by William Ramos

Newark SBA office relocates

NEWARK—The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Newark district office is on the move—literally.

On June 26, the agency officially called the fourth floor of 2 Gateway Center, in downtown Newark, its new home.

According to Francisco A. Marrero, SBA New Jersey district director, the agency and its 39 employees and members of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) Chapter 15 will be occupying 12,000 square feet of 2 Gateway Center.

"We are delighted to be moving our headquarters to a facility that

will allow us to serve our customers in a professional setting," said Marrero. "Our new offices have been designed to provide our clients with a state-of-the-art facility where they can easily access SBA services and information."

The SBA is an independent federal agency that provides small business owners and start-up companies with lending, business counseling and government contracting programs.

For additional information about SBA's programs and services call (201) 645-2434, or visit the agency's new location.

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Inner-city students can make the grade

This week's article is the first part of a two-part series on exceptional inner-city kids.

by Tony Curtis Davis

The 1200 SAT score and 4.0 GPA are non-existent in the inner-city night? Wrong. Despite the media's negative images of black youths being drug-carrying drug dealers and welfare recipients, there are the hard core few who refuse to fall prey to a victim to the numerous stereotypes.

Every day we're fed a daily dose of black failure. Every year we are told of the football player or basketball player that failed to make the college grade. We are never told of the basketball player, soccer player, gymnast that also failed. Why is this?

These are the inner-city youth that are ignored. These are the ones that refuse to give up on their community, or refuse to give in to self-destruction. These are the ones that dare to be great.

Clifford Scott High School has always considered itself a family. There has always been references to the Scott family Vice-Principal M. Schenck. "We are blessed to have Karla Porter in the Clifford Scott family. She is a wonderful, vibrant, person."

Karla Porter, is senior president of the National Honor Society, number three in a class of 223 with a 4.0 GPA, 1010 SAT scores, Rutgers bound, volunteer of the inner-city tutoring program for kids, ranked 19th by the U.S. Tennis Association in the Northeast 18 years old and the 1st in the country. Karla is a black businesswoman, and her mother is an accountant. She admits to being raised in an educational environment. "But, if you're not, you can still do it (excel academically)," said Porter.

Speaking from experience, she noted that students with the most problems have the most potential. "I see it all the time, in my tutoring program, with the children from Arcadia Gardens. Repetitions is very important. Work a keeping your mental ability sharp, just as you do your natural ability. You can always improve on something."

Porter will play tennis at Rutgers this Fall, along with pursuing a degree in electrical engineering, an MBA is also in the future.

After her tennis career is over Karla

would like to be an executive for a major high tech firm.

Mrs. Alexander, head of Scott's National Honor Society, says she wouldn't be surprised because Karla has all the skills to lead.

Karla adds, "I would also like to work with programs to build tennis and other sports programs throughout the Newark and East Orange area. It was the community that gave me my start in tennis."

David Smith? He is a portrait of character," said Coach Nick Varnell. Orange High School's head football coach. He has the ability to transfer his intelligence from the classroom on to the playing field. He is a division one player, and even though he is choosing education over athletics, I'm disappointed that Rutgers didn't recruit him."

This is David Smith's senior year at Orange High School. During his athletic career this 6 ft. 250 lb. lineman has amassed awards such as first team All State 1993 and first team All

State County and All Area 1994. A sophomore pre season ankle injury prevented him from repeating as All State. He also was the first-ever Orange High School to be named team captain as a senior.

The Rutgers-bound Smith, who's a basketball scholarship, will also pursue a Pre-Med degree, with a career goal in sports medicine. This explains the 65 GPA and the 1030 SAT score, which was taken the day of a game. He is a "B" student that has received only one B in the entire year. His college prep class load includes advance placement calculus, advance placement physics and advanced English.

David speaks of his strong family background saying he was brought up as a Christian and has had a personal relationship with God for the past three years. His message to his fellow youth is to pick a good role model, keep your eyes on the prize, for if you take them off this earth, you go backward, and keep your eyes on God, because there is something to be achieved in life. "David Smith joined his high school career on Saturday, June 3."

NAACP joins fight

Continued from page 1

is because we have not received the assistance," says Superintendent Campbell.

Members of the community and various organizations were also on hand to present a United Nations Resolution, endorsed by the Coalition for Voting Rights, the Newark Teachers Organization, People's Organization for Progress and Newark PTA Council.

The resolution demanded a public forum be held by the mayor, city council and BOE, in which Governor Whitman and Commissioner Klagholz appear to hear the concerns and voices of Newark.

Also in attendance was an outraged Amin Baraka. Coalition for Voting Rights and long time Newark activist who said the attempted take-over by the state is a violation of the Abbott v. Burke case as well as a violation of Newark citizen's 9th, 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.

"This attempt to take over the

school system is an act of outrageous racism and is dedicated to robbing Newark citizens of our educational budget of \$500 million and also robbing the share of the \$450 million that the NJ Supreme Court ordered the state to pay urban schools," says Baraka. He also said it is an attempt to impose white supremacy.

Baraka was referring to the state's failure to comply with the N.J. Supreme Court remedy in *Abbott v. Burke*, a case filed by the Newark Education Case Center Inc. (NELCI) citing that NJDOE distributed more funds to wealthy districts than to urban districts. As a result the Quality Education Act of 1990 was passed, which ordered the state to provide increased funding for urban school districts.

However, last year NELCI returned to court to sue the state's non-compliance in the distribution of funds. The state now has until January of 1996 to comply.

Clergy challenges

Continued from page 1

possible.

After the conference, which lasted one and a half hours, Rev. Jackson reported that Manzella's keeper went off and he left the room. When Manzella returned he told Rev. Jackson that only he would be allowed to take the tour and no one else could. "Of course I denied I am sure the call came from Mr. Treflinger or from the county council advising them not to let us take the tour. I think they thought that we could say we offered Rev. Jackson a tour but he declined. I think it was a stall," the Rev. proclaimed.

The Rev. also reported that there were 175 youth in the facility that day as opposed to 90 that the house should hold. There were times when there were no undergarments for the kids, instead of one counselor to eight youth there is one counselor to 35 or up to 38 youth. As a result almost every week five to six youth have to be taken to UMDNJ for treatments because of fights.

The Rev. also discussed its concerns over the report that youth are being forced to do the work of paid staff. One incident in particular allegedly happened on June 13 where eight youth were told to mop and wash hallways and clean the building in preparation for inspection on June 14. After the work was done they were

"rewarded" with chocolate.

There is a serious problem with that youth house, compounds the situation is that we have administrative leaders that are not certified to hold the position that they hold," said Rev. Jackson.

"The present building is in bad condition, the air conditioning doesn't work, windows need replacing, and we were told the kids still don't have water fountains, they are a water meter from the custodian's wash basin."

The Rev. also said that there is a resignation of the superintendent of the administration. "Even if you're doing decently it matters if it's not the people that are doing it," he said.

Rev. Jackson also noted that Goldenberg had mentioned that the state had done an inspection of the building, and said it was in excellent condition. However, when he, Rev. Jackson, asked for a copy of the report Goldenberg "quickly modified his statement and said 'I didn't say that they passed it, only that they say it is in a better condition than it was last year.'"

At press time City News was unable to get a response from Goldenberg's office.

As I See...

Continued from page 1

As I see... as a municipal clerk. When she was appointed as Newton's deputy, Newton urged her to take courses that would help her pass the state mandated examination for validation as a municipal clerk.

No wonder Newton, in retrospect, is somewhat of a hypocrite when the political stakes are high. Newton does have the can to return to her original civil service title of a principal clerk-transcriber and expect to make far less than the approximately \$65,000 she earned as city clerk.

According to insiders Newton was given 48 hours to vacate the clerk's office and was told she had been transferred to a municipal court when she showed up for work following the June 12 vote.

Her rumored city clerk Moore has several friends in powerful positions

in Mayor Cooper's administration which brings us back to our original premise that connections count big time.

Speaking of connections, can we really believe a choice is pending between two former East Orange city officers, Bill Hart and Tom Cook?

The gossip is that Bill and Gloria Hart have moved back to East Orange (permanently) and that the former mayors preceding Cardell Cooper are so upset with financial and physical conditions in the city they are discussing the possibility of a change when Cooper runs for re-election two years hence.

Maybe these two guys have been listening to jazz stylist, Etta Jones warble her long time hit and signature song, "Don't Go to Strangers." Come on home to me... if you want to get something done.

News

Continued from page 3

superstar fame, returned to Bessemer, Ala. to shoot photographs for the jacket of her upcoming album and documentary off her life. Ross, 51, lived in this blue-collar town on the outskirts of Birmingham for a short time as a young girl and now owns property here where her aunt lives. The album will contain a collection of songs that reflect the rural South and Ross' Southern heritage—BESSEMER ALA.

VIOLENCE IS SOCIETY'S MAIN ILL

The American Medical Association (AMA) says efforts to control the nation's epidemic of violence are not making the grade. AMA President Robert McAleer gave a grade of "D" for the country's efforts to curb violence. Describing America's problem of violence as a "national epidemic," McAleer said, "by almost any estimate, ours is the most violent developed nation on earth. We're number one, and its nothing to be proud of." In 1992, the National Crime Victimization Survey reported 6.6 million separate cases of violence—WASHINGTON, DC.

Elections

Continued from page 3

reinstatement in October of 1994.

In April, the congressman joined President Clinton in attending the ceremony in Port-au-Prince marking the turnover of peacekeeping duties to the United Nations. A year earlier, before the decision for U.S. intervention was made, the congressman was arrested protesting U.S. policy towards Haiti.

"Members of the U.S. military are to be commended for their positive role in the rebuilding of democracy in Haiti," said Congressman Payne. "I have been gratified to see the end of a dictatorship and the return of the democratic process to Haiti. It is in the best interest of the U.S. to support democracy in Haiti as intensely as we have in other areas of the world."

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Lub-Dub, Lub-Dub, Lub-Dub. This is the sound of the most basic rhythm we know - the human heartbeat. It rarely receives our attention unless it stops its regular cadence. Without its consistent flow, no other bodily functions can take place. Jazz, America's contribution to the world of music can be compared to this rhythm. Although there have been many innovative changes since its beginnings, the source of it all is the beat. It is the saving constant and is sometimes called the one, or the down-beat.

Jazz has its origins in the music of African-Americans. In Africa, the voice and the drum were vital mediums for communication amongst the people. With the institution of slavery came the destruction of family relationships, the mixing of various tribes and the loss of tribal languages. Slave owners banned drums. They were afraid that the sound would be used to signal a revolt. The common communication style was tampered with, but rhythm wasn't hampered. It, like the slaves' heartbeat stayed consistent and found other means of expression. Spirituals, work songs, call and response cadences, field cries, hollers and calls were born. These expressions were to provide the musical fertilizer for what we now call Blues, R&B, Gospel and Jazz.

After Emancipation and up to the First World War, rhythm hit the road. It traveled south in Blackface with Vaudeville troupes. It danced in Congo Square and moved in time to the marching bands of New Orleans. Musicians played it on Mississippi river boats, heading for Chicago. It went to the frontiers of Kansas City, taking along a jolly ragtime beat. It was busy forming Black orchestras, marching bands and the music publishing industry in New York City. Jazz is an improvisational music, but it needed to have a structure to improvise on. In each of these areas of America, the rhythm was growing, strengthening and evolving.

Music was one of the few domains that Americans of African descent were allowed to excel with a minimum amount of racism. Jazz had a bad connotation in its early beginnings. At the time, the Black church and white America felt it was lowlife music that corrupted the morals of its young listeners. In addition, the popular thought of the white Americans was this music was of Negro origin so it had no value. Attitudes about Jazz would change, but not before the end of the nineteenth century.

A few events at the dawn of the twentieth century opened the road for the rhythm of jazz to develop. Ragtime, was a popular music style which jazz evolved from. Some great pianists who were pioneers in this style were Scott Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, Luckeyeth Roberts, James P. Johnson, Willie "The Lion" Smith, Fats Waller, and Eubie Blake. The phonograph was invented and the first Jazz recording was credited to the Dixieland Jazz Band of New Orleans. The music was notated and those who needed written instructions to play could purchase their favorite ragtime pieces. James Reese Europe and his syncopated ragtime style were noted as a transitional band to Jazz.

The Twenties saw the beginning of the big band era in New York City with Fletcher Henderson and Paul Whiteman. Now that the music could be played from written materials, white America became more accepting and involved in this new art form. Technical difficulty was eliminated with musical notation and a few Black arrangers were hired for white orchestras. Tin Pan Alley began a business with musicians that would last a few decades. And the beat goes on...

During the thirties, the country came to a standstill after the stock market crash of 1929, and crawled through the Great Depression. Jazz was right there, growing strong and steady. Swing was the name of the music, and big bands became the "Sound of America." White band leaders profited from this sound, such as Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Tommy Dorsey. When swing became a public sound, the commercialization by white bands took

a great deal of the fire out of the performances. The Black bands tried to keep emotional energy in their playing, but they were being pressured to modify their style. Earl Hinds, Don Redman, Chick Webb, Andy Kirk, and Jimmy Lunceford were some of the contributing band leaders of this time. They kept true to the heart and played, but they were not able to get paid the large sums of money that the white bands were reaping. Count Basie and Duke Ellington's bands were the only Black bands who reaped large financial rewards.

We cannot leave the thirties without talking a bit about the accomplishments of Duke Ellington. He was a pianist, arranger, composer and band leader. Although he is best noted for his band and the work he did at the Cotton Club, he has a long list of accomplishments, 2,000 songs and lyrics to his credit. He composed a sacred jazz concert during the sixties and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969.

The forties saw the quickening pace of World War II. While the Atomic Bomb was being manufactured, a style of jazz that was to have profound effects on music for decades to come was created. Prez, Dizzy, Yardbird, and Miles are some of Bebop's pioneers. This style was considered fresh and innovative to some, plain noise and bad taste to others. With its emphasis on solo improvisations of the instruments, Bebop pulled away from the Swing form and took it to another level. The public didn't become aware of this new sound until 1944 because of a recording ban, but once it "hit," the world of swing would be on its way out.

There were many vocalists who contributed to the Jazz traditions styling. One major contribution was Scat Singing. Legend has it that this style of singing came about during a recording session of Louis Armstrong. He forgot the words to a song that he was working on, or dropped the sheet music during the take. Rather than stop, he uttered nonsense syllables and completed the recording. It worked! This texture of singing was and is used in many different vocal styles. Some of the great singers in the jazz tradition were Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Betty Carter, to name just a few. Lambert, Hendricks and Ross took vocals to another level, imitating the horns and singing as if they were instruments. Vocalists and instrumentalists each gave Jazz its own distinctive sound through use of rhythm.

Jazz was a major movement of music for America. Its legacy should be explored and its pioneers recognized for their contributions to our culture. The hard bop fan, avant-garde enthusiast, the followers of free form or fusion, the contemporary listener, or the diehard purists are all related by the rhythm. Hard, soft, obvious, subtle, intrusive, understated, syncopated, Rhythm, like a heartbeat is essential to all forms of Jazz.

Where is Jazz going? In this highly technological society, creation and computers seem to go hand in hand. Drum machines, MIDI, sequencers and synthesizers have entered the Jazz arena. Performers from Europe, South America, Asia and other parts of the globe are adding their flavor the Jazz style, creating new color and texture to the original African-American base. The music, which once was accused of "corrupting the morals of young people" now draws an older crowd. Instead of revellings in the dance halls, Jazz enthusiasts are as likely to sit and enjoy CDs, watch performers in the clubs, or discuss it on the Internet. Some Rap artist have sampled jazz pieces and used them in their creations. When I hear certain rappers "flow," I hear the rhythm of an improvised horn line. Could this signal a renewed interest in Jazz from "Rap's New Generation?" The future may not always seem clear, but one thing is certain. No matter where the sound heads, it will always take the universal rhythm with it. As long as there is rhythm, voices, instrumentalists, the downbeat, innovative spirits and a heartbeat, Jazz won't be far behind! ■

RHYTHM & HISTORY



Painting by MacThaddeus Lindsey

MICHAEL JACKSON

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BAD

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MAN IN THE MIRROR

THRILLER

BEAT IT

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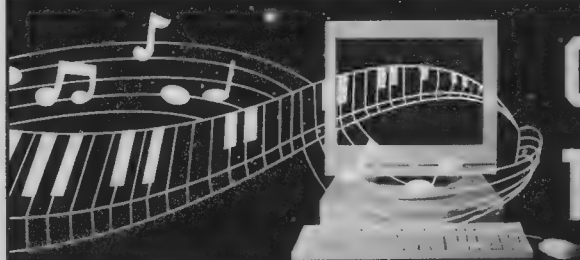
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CREATING MUSIC THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

BY: REGINA JINGLES

Since the beginning of time, music was created using any object available. Wood was hollowed out to make a drum or a flute. Animal horns served as a trumpet. Food products, such as beans, might be used as a rattle. Humans even incorporated their own bodies into the mix, using everything from the voice and the hands to the stomp of the feet. What mattered most was how to best express the emotion of the music.

As instruments progressed in sophistication, so did technology. Nowadays, there are all sorts of high-tech equipment which can mimic actual instruments with just the press of a button or keystroke. Walk through any music store today and one will find a whole new world of opportunity for those interested in making music, regardless of their training. This world has been made possible through the introduction of MIDI which stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface. This is the language that allows electronic music devices from different manufacturers to communicate with another. With a computer and a few well-chosen pieces of equipment and software titles, a person can set up their own desktop recording studio or record label—right from home.

Want to become a one-person orchestra? Synthesizers are available with sounds ranging from the acoustic piano and violin, to brass and woodwind sections to drums. If you happen to play a particular instrument, there are guitar, wind and percussion synth controllers which look and sound like the actual instrument. Or, one can purchase sound modules which are devices that act like a synthesizer - minus the keyboard. Want to incorporate sound that has been altered in some kind of way into your composition? Then look into getting a sampler, which is basically a device that can record, playback and change the pitch of stored sound segments created by your band or "sampled" from someone else's arrangement. Need to get a serious groove going? Check out the latest models of drum machines; a few finger movements on your part can create an instant dance-floor hit. Got a voice that just won't quit? There are all sorts of microphones that can pick up the Mariah Carey highs to the Barry White lows.

Still intrigued? Good, because there's more. Is a sound not to your liking? Purchase an equalizer, a noise gate or a compressor to enhance, clean up or fine tune those arrangements. A sequencing program, acts a lot like a multi-track tape recorder, by allowing the user to layer sound upon sound. Yet its ability to play back, as well as edit a musician's performance commands, makes this an important software purchase. Need lessons or copies of your musical compositions? There are software programs that can teach everything from learning to play the piano or guitar to printing out sheet music. Want to make a tape that can be used as a demo or as a master copy for your own independent release? There are recorders ranging from multi-track and reel-to-reel to digital audio tape (DAT) and hard-disk systems. Yamaha keyboard? Roland drum machine? Macintosh computer? Make sure

all equipment is MIDI-compatible. As discussed earlier, MIDI is the language that high-tech equipment must use to be able to work with one another.

Of course we've only scratched the surface as to what's out there. So, if you have a little money and a lot of interest, let imagination be your guide. Here are some suggestions from Gus Hinkson, Program Coordinator of Basement Recordings Inc., (a Black-owned, multi-media facility based in Brooklyn, New York) who offers classes in these technologies:

- 1) Have a fundamental understanding of how a piece of equipment works. This will allow you to avoid a lot of the little frustrations that come from working with this technology.
- 2) Know what the current trends are. Read computer and music magazines such as PC Novice, MacWorld, Electronic Musician, or Home & Studio Recording, to name a few, and get a feel for what's going on. You don't want to buy a product that's going to be obsolete in a year.
- 3) Before you make any purchases, have a first-hand look at the performance of the equipment. Make sure it'll do what you want it to do.
- 4) Remain confident and don't be intimidated by all of the hype. Take classes, ask questions and trust your judgement.
- 5) Have an open mind. You'll find all sorts of possibilities out there to help you be more creative and productive - and most important, have some fun while you create music.

Well for starters, there's not one industry that hasn't been touched by technology. From medicine to music; high-tech equipment is being used to enhance creativity and improve productivity. So what, you ask? Well consider this: Technology has advanced so much that today's artist (with the help of fiber-optic audio transmission) can have their songs recorded over the telephone for album release - all this, without leaving their home and travelling to a studio! A computer equipped with a modem can access the Internet allowing you to download new releases from some of your favorite artists onto blank compact discs. African-American recording artists cannot afford to ignore these improvements or else they risk being left out of the loop.

If you're one of those individuals who still can't program their VCR, take heart. Today's motto when it comes to technology is "user-friendly." Equipment manufacturers are starting to listen and make things easier for the average consumer. A whole new world of sound awaits you. After all, Africans built the pyramids, what's a little modern technology? ■

NOTE: Basement Recordings can be reached at 718-485-7120

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MIX IT UP MUSIC

Reggae:

roots & redemption

By: Augustin J. Hinkson

You will not find a category for Reggae music in Billboard Magazine, but if you play a single guitar line on the upstroke, you will feel its characteristic bounce - chek, chek, chek. Add a melodic but driving bass line, accent a rimshot and kick drum on the second and fourth beats and you will capture Reggae's assertive rhythmic signature.

Reggae music is another gift of African culture that originates from the island nation of Jamaica. The music dates back to about 1969. It is a result of a continuum of influences, borrowing traits from Jamaican Mento music and American Rhythm and Blues. Mento music is a dance music popular among rural Jamaicans in the 1930's and 1940's. The music was played by bands which featured a C melody saxophone, banjo, guitar, drum, and clarinet. During the mid 1950's, as Jamaicans migrated into the capital city Kingston in search of work, Mento music faded giving rise to a surge of Rhythm and Blues music that was imported or picked up from American radio stations.

The attraction to Rhythm and Blues lies in its similarity to Mento music where syncopation comes off the second and fourth beats. This rhythmic texture is unique to Africa. The popularity of Rhythm and Blues in Jamaica spawned the emergence of the sound system man who trucked powerful amplifiers and heavy wattage speakers to different locations and dance halls such as Jubilee and Forrester in the Kingston ghetto. These original disk jockeys sold liquor as they blasted a popular Jazz and Rhythm and Blues hits.

Jamaicans played their own versions of Rhythm and Blues songs incorporating the sound of New Orleans with its emphasis on brass instruments, the boogie piano and a heavy bass. By the early sixties the music highlighted the shuffle with the brass section riffing on the off beat. That distinct, fast tempoed riff, became known as ska. The ska raged between 1959 and 1965 with songs often about the poor living conditions of some Jamaican people. By 1965 the fast tempo of the ska had slowed down. The music now featured vocal accompaniment, a diminished brass section, drum accents between the second and fourth beat,

and a melodic but prominent bass line. This new music which provided the foundation for Reggae was called Rock Steady, a relaxed sort of sound that allowed a dancer to "rent a tile" — mark time in one spot and work out little troubles by swaying the arms and the body. The transition from Rock Steady to Reggae is a smooth one. What is noticeable in Reggae is that it is more purposeful in creating a driving rhythm. The single and pronounced guitar stroke clears the way for emphasis on the melodic but heavy bass while rhythm and chord changes dominate the second and fourth beats.

The driving rhythm provided the appropriate context for Reggae music as it became a voice of suffering Black people and a light for African consciousness. No other artists represented this tradition better than Bob Marley and the Wailers. In the song "Babylon System" he sings without reservation, "Babylon System is the Vampire/Sucking the blood of the sufferers..." In "Concrete Jungle" he warns of mental slavery, "No Chains around my feet, but I'm not free/I know I am bound here in captivity..." His music received international acclaim and extended his solidarity to the struggling people of Africa.

In 1980 Bob Marley was invited to perform at the celebration of the independence of Zimbabwe. His song Zimbabwe reflected his deep commitment to the struggles of African people. Indeed his song Africa Unite, from the Survival album he intones, "How good and how pleasant it would be before God and man to see the unification of all Africans..." Bob Marley remains the undisputed King of Reggae music. He has sold over \$240 million worth of records.

Reggae music enjoyed more success in Europe and Jamaica than in the United States, but Reggae has had a notable impact on Soul and Rhythm and Blues artists. "I'll Take You There," by the Staple Singers went to the number one spot in 1972. The song is an early example of the incorporation into Rhythm and Blues of the inverted offbeat of Reggae music. Eric Clapton's "I Shot The Sheriff" topped the chart in 1974, is a faithful cover of Bob Marley's tune by the same name. Other artists influ-

enced by Reggae music included Stevie Wonder, Blondie, David Bowie, Sting, etc. Recently Tina Turner made a career comeback with the reggae influenced "What's Love Got To Do With It."

In addition to Bob Marley there were a number of other artists and groups that contributed to the rise of Reggae music. Jimmy Cliff popularized "Wonderful World, Beautiful People" (1970) and the movie and song "The Harder They Come, The Harder They Fall" did much to internationalize Reggae music. Other notable Reggae groups include Third World and Steel Pulse.

Bob Marley's music proved to be the toughest act to follow. At the young age of 36 on May 11, 1981 Bob Marley passed on to Zion. Since his death Reggae music has not picked up where he left off. In pursuit of commercial success groups tend to dilute their roots in fashions and fads.

The latest evolution of Reggae is called Dance Hall music. The songs are usually updated ska songs with a heavy drum beat, a booming bass, lots of echoes and a voice chanting lyrics that are barely recognized by the untrained ear. The content of the music has changed considerably from guns and sex to what the youth refer to as culture. Currently popular artists include Beenie Man with hits like "Heaven vs. Hell" and "Modeling." Capleton and Luciano are other notable artists in what has become a musical subculture.

In this underground the old tradition of Sound Clashes between musical sets draw crowds with whistles, horns and lighters to give approval to the "wickedest" set. In reverence to Bob Marley, sets open up with what is referred to as Selassie I tunes such as "Chase Those Crazy Bald Heads" and "Three Little Birds" - written by Bob Marley.

For those who are use to listening to Reggae music with the clarity projected by Bob Marley and other Reggae artists, Dance Hall music may be a revolting regression to noise. But the music reflects the dissonance of the 90's and a current attempt to steer onto the road of roots and redemption. ■

BELLE EAU ROAD BLUES FUSES

CALYPSO
& Jazz

Upcoming Album Features Garvin Blake on The Double Second Pan
By: Tony Meyers



Invention, resourcefulness, rhythm and improvisation are among the defining features of traditional African culture. The thought and practices of African people, wherever they may live throughout the World, reflect the intelligence of making the most of what is available while maintaining a balance and harmony with nature. This inventiveness and flexibility requires sight through a third eye to create in the mind what is needed.

In the realm of crafting and playing musical instruments, the genius of African centered ideas and inventions are indisputable. That genius is most recently expressed in the invention of the Steel Pan on the island of Trinidad just after the end of the Second World War in the late 1940's. At the conclusion of this violent confrontation among nations, Trinidad was littered with large fuel oil drums. These steel drums provided, however, the raw material for the invention of the musical instrument known as Pans.

The creation of the instrument involves burning the drum so that it becomes malleable enough to be sunk and then cutting out grooves for tuning musical notes. It is more than fascinating to see and hear how the explosive hammering of the areas between the grooves yield beautifully tuned musical notes that project a rich spectrum of harmonics when they are played. Indeed instruments for the full range of instruments in a symphony orchestra can be produced.

The beauty of the Pan has been described as mystical and hypnotic. Whether it is played as a single instrument or in the massive synergy of a full steel orchestra, the Pan has the ability to attract and captivate the listener. Moreover, this magnetic quality also engenders among certain Pan players a profound commitment to enhance the quality of the instrument.

Garvin Blake embodies this commitment to Pan which is still in its infancy in terms of refinements in its production and the extent

of its musical exposure. While his humility will deny the fact, at age 32 Garvin Blake represents the cutting edge for redefining and enhancing the progress of Pan music. Last year in 1994 at the Panorama Festival attended by more than 6000 Pan aficionados, in Brooklyn New York, Garvin's innovative arrangement of Robert Greenidge's "Fire Coming Down" stunned the audience. His arrangement amounted to a clear claim as winner of the Panorama, but for apparent political reasons he was scored as second place winner. Garvin is undaunted in his determination to "play from the heart" and not to follow the crowd.

Garvin's commitment to Pan has propelled him to achieve a life long dream of recording an album that showcases the Pan as a legitimate instrument. His current album project is entitled, *Belle Eau Road Blues*. He recently stated, "I believe one of the things that has been absent in the history of Pan is that it has not been documented in terms of literature and audio recordings. It is an art form people usually hear at carnival time or Labor Day. There aren't many records. For the most part, when you do hear a recording it is not of the quality that most people would want to hear. In *Belle Eau Road Blues*, I am trying to document the art form because I think we are at a major crossroad in the history of Pan and now is a good time to have some documentation. Pan is coming of age in that the tuning has come a long way in the past 25 years. It is getting more sophisticated and also the players are advancing their knowledge of music and harmonies. The full potential of the instrument is now beginning to surface. Whereas people looked at the Pan almost as a novelty, something you play around a pool side and tourists enjoy. People are beginning to open their ears and hear the Pan as a legitimate instrument that makes beautiful music not tourist music - it makes music." ■

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RAP LIVES!

By: Mariahadessa Tallie

From the beautifully woven tales of the griot in Africa, to the smooth reggae chants in Jamaica and the lyrical poetry of the Harlem Renaissance the spoken word has always held great significance in the lives of African people. Today the spoken word takes center stage in the form of a multi-billion dollar industry called Rap.

Sometimes educational and uplifting, other times brooding and aggressive, Hip-Hop music has captured the hearts of a generation. Rap music accounts for the real events marking the lives of young African-Americans combined with its funky beats make it the music of choice for many. Although mainstream press tends to concentrate on the violence and the sexism in Hip-Hop, Rap is a very diverse medium with songs running the gamut from hangin' out on the weekend with your friends to the strength of our ancestors in the face of adversity. Many people thought Hip-Hop was a fad, but 20 years have passed since its humble beginnings in the Bronx, New York. Hip-Hop is with us for the long haul.

When Afrika Bambaata started the Zulu Nation in 1973 the stage had already been set for Hip-Hop to blow up. DJ Kool Here had been spinning records at parties and in parks in the Bronx since 1971. He had quickly gained a reputation for being one of the best DJs around and people came from all five boroughs to enjoy his parties. Kool Here motivated others to get out and try to sharpen their skills on the turntables, one of his admirers was none other than DJ Grandmaster Flash. "Flash was like a student of Kool Here's," explains Daoud Sol Amon, Head of Media Affairs in the Atlanta chapter of the Zulu Nation. "He used to go to Here's parties and listen and watch the way Here deejayed. He was inspired by Here and how Here pulled everyone out to his jams." Eventually the time came when Flash wanted to show his own skills on the turntables. He did this, and together with his partner Melle Mel, they revolutionized what we know as Rap music today. "Originally it was just the DJ and the crowd," explains Sol Esseen Mubara, Vice Chapter Leader of Atlanta's Rock Steady Crew and Zulu Nation. "The DJ was the MC so Flash originally would MC, but then he started writing rhymes down. He want-

ed to do more than just shout names out, he wanted to be creative and keep the party going." With that in mind, Grandmaster Flash began writing full fledged rhymes, but, he wanted someone with more of a radio voice to recite them. Flash found that someone in Melle Mel, who began rhyming at Flash's parties. "Melle Mel started MCing parties and he became popular. He was one of the best and still is!" says Sol Amon reflectively.

DJ competitions began intensifying and the rivalries between DJs and MCs brought innovative, fresh talents to the forefront. During this time a well-loved, well-respected gang leader named Afrika Bambaata decided to use his influence to start something positive. Thus, in 1973 the Zulu Nation was born. "The Zulu Nation brought all different aspects to Hip-Hop culture together. Graffiti artists, B-Boys and B-Girls (called breakdancers by popular media) DJs and MCs all came together in peace under one organization," says Sol Amon. As Hip-Hop was growing, new techniques were beginning to come into play. One of the ways DJs began showing their creativity was through scratching. Although the Rap scene was blossoming way back in 1971, scratching didn't come about until 1976 when Grand Wizard Theodore created it. Now scratching is one of the most important aspects of Rap music. While all the emphasis was placed on the DJ in the earliest days of Hip-Hop, today we find the attention has shifted towards the lyricists. "Back then the DJ and the MC went hand in hand. The rapping was an added attraction," says Sol Amon. Sol-Esseen agrees saying "The DJ is the beat, the drummer and the foundation. The rapper brings personality to the music. The rappers came into the music last, but as soon as business and the industry came in they polluted it."

1979 marks the year that the music industry recognized the money making potential of Rap. Grandmaster Cash wrote a rhyme called "Rapper's Delight" carrying out a place in Rap history for The Sugar Hill Gang. Once "Rapper's Delight" was released, the face of Rap music changed forever. Although Hip-Hop historians are quick to point out that prior to the release of "Rapper's Delight" a record called "King Tim The Third" had been done

by The Fatback Man, "Rapper's Delight" was the record that garnered attention and aroused interest in this formerly underground music called Hip-Hop. The response to "Rapper's Delight" was overwhelming with its clever, catchy lyrics and danceable beat. "When 'Rapper's Delight' first came out people who weren't going to park jams, heard it and thought it was innovative. There were these incredible lyrics over a record, and the audience took to it immediately," Sol Amon recalls. After seeing the success of The Sugar Hill Gang, many rappers decided that they wanted to get into recording as well. Sol Esseen explains that many of the earlier recordings in Hip-Hop used live instruments and maintained a certain integrity he feels is lacking in Hip-Hop today. "Back then you would never make a song disrespecting women. If you were going to have a party, women had to come to make the party live, but if you were disrespecting them with your music they certainly wouldn't come," he says laughing. "I honestly feel that the focus on material objects has distracted us and drained the feeling that was originally in Hip-Hop. The music has suffered. MC's need to be cultivating something back through the art, but if you dis' your 'peeps' you aren't giving anything back."

Since the days of the jams in the park, Kool Here, Grandmaster Flash, Melle Mel, The Treacherous Three, and The Funky Four Plus One, Hip-Hop has gone through phases that would render it unrecognizable to its pioneers. The current popularity of Gangsta Rap and the controversies surrounding Rap music in general have been front page news for the past couple of years. When rappers were involved and spearheaded the Stop The Violence Movement, there was no mainstream press reporting their efforts. During the late eighties and early nineties, when a slew of Afrocentric rappers stepped to the forefront, such as Public Enemy, The Jungle Brothers, X-Clan, and Queen Latifah there was not much light shone on their messages either. Needless to say, now that Rap seems to have strayed far from its origins, it is getting unprecedented attention. We should never forget that everything goes in cycles. One day we may find ourselves back in those same parks where talented DJs, dancers and MCs took Black music to uncharted territory and created legacies. ■

EXCELLO

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VARIOUS ARTISTS - THE BEST OF NASHBORO GOSPEL

Nashboro Records was founded in Nashville by Ernie Young in 1950 and rose to become one of America's greatest post-war gospel labels, ranking in popularity with Apollo, Peacock, Savoy, Vee-Jay, and Specialty. This 27-song compilation is a midline-priced introduction to this vast catalog of masters which have not been previously released on CD in the U.S. Contains tracks by such artists as The Consolers, The Swanee Quintet, Brother Joe May, Edna Gallmon Cooke, The CBS Trumpeteers, The Brooklyn All-Stars and Prof. Harold Boggs.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - IT'S JESUS Y'ALL: THE SOULFUL SOUND OF NASHBORO GOSPEL

This compilation spotlights Nashboro's incredibly rich stream of soulful gospel acts with a contemporary sound. The album features 19 tracks - more than 77 minutes of righteous gospel sounds from the likes of The Gospel Keynotes, The Salem Travellers, The Supreme Angels, Troy Ramey & The Soul Searchers, Cleophus Robinson and more.

THE FAIRFIELD FOUR - STANDING ON THE ROCK

The Fairfield Four, Nashville's venerable Black gospel group, are an institution, performing and recording from the 1930's to the present. The last album, a 1992 Warner Bros. CD entitled "Standing In The Safety Zone," was nominated for a Grammy Award for "Best Traditional Gospel Soul." This CD presents 28 classic gospel sides originally recorded by the group for Dot Records in the early '50s, which is considered to be their most fertile period.

WILLIE NEAL JOHNSON & THE GOSPEL KEYNOTES

AVI launches its Nashboro gospel Soul

Savers with "The Best Of Willie Neal Johnson & The Gospel Keynotes," featuring the charismatic leads of Johnson and Paul Beasley. Included in this collection is the testifying "Til We Meet," the delicate "Keynotes Prayer," and their classic "Jesus You've Been Good To Me." The group is known for its tight, sweet, high tenor harmony, strong lead singing, preacherly recitations and sweeping falsetto. The 14 cuts on this compilation comprise the cream of the Keynotes' long unavailable material.

THE CONSOLERS - THE BEST...

The Consolers are one of the nation's finest husband/wife gospel teams - Sullivan and Lola Pugh. Their music was a mixture of blues moans and sanctified church music with a strong sense of Christian conviction. This "Best Of" collection is comprised of 14 tracks, CD; 12, cassette, and features the Consolers' first and biggest Nashboro release, "Give Me My Flowers." Also included is the driving "Won't It Be Grand," the touching "Too Late," and the plain old-fashioned gospel of "Work I've Done."

THE SWANEE QUINTET - THE BEST...

The gospel stylings of the Swanee Quintet are featured on this new release, including "Try Me Father," their gospel reworking of James Brown's 1958 hit "Try Me," and "That's The Spirit," both produced with a helping hand from the Godfather himself. Little Johnny Jones' delicate falsetto is featured on "Sleep On Mother," and Charles Barnwell and the Rev. Ruben W. Willingham wail on the mournful "Sit Down Servant." Easily one of gospel's greatest groups.

TROY RAMEY & THE SOUL SEARCHERS - THE BEST OF...

This church-blazing quartet released a series of successful albums on the Nashboro label beginning in the mid-'70s and running through the early '80s featuring the coarse-grained pipes of Troy Ramey in the style of the legendary Gospelaires of Dayton. ■

Note: For inquiries concerning Exello, Nashboro, AVI, its release program or label histories, contact PLA Media at 213-358-8688

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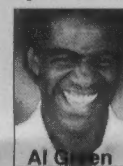
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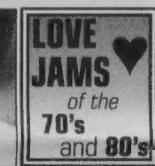
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THE BLUES

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SLIM HARPO



LAZY LESTER



LIGHTNIN' SLIM

SLIM HARPO - HIP SHAKIN': THE EXCELLO COLLECTION

The cornerstone of AVI's reissue program pays homage to Excello's most successful bluesman, Louisiana singer/guitarist/harpist James "Slim Harpo" Moore. This truly comprehensive retrospective of his career features such standards as "Baby Scratch My Back," "I'm A King Bee," "Rainin' In My Heart," "Shake Your Hips," "Tip On In," and "Tee Ni Nee Ni Nu," including several long-lost photos and notes by Vinyl Junkie" Cub Koda.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - THE BEST OF EXCELLO RECORDS

This collection goes back to Ernie Young's record store in Nashville and Jay Miller's Crowley, La., studios in the early '50s to present such Excello classics as Arthur Gunter's "Baby Let's Play House"; The Marigolds' "Rollin' Stone," The Gladolas' "Little Darlin'"; Lazy Lester's "I Hear You Knockin'"; Slim Harpo's "Rainin' In My Heart"; Lightnin' Slim's "Bad Luck"; and the Blues Rockers' "Calling All Cows." Also, including Jerry McCain, Lillian Offitt, Shy Guy Douglas, Louis Brooks & the Hi Toppers, and more. 30 songs in all, plus an authoritative label history by James "The Hound" Marshall, WFMU.

LIGHTNIN' SLIM - I'M EVIL: RARE AND UNISUED EXCELLO MASTERS, VOL. 1

27 stomps from the swamps - more than 75 minutes of gutbucket blues from Louisiana. Includes ultra-rare Excello masters culled from the tape vaults by Cub Koda. All of this material is previously - unreleased on compact disc - eight songs previously unreleased anywhere, plus four newly-discovered takes of his classics (including a faster version of Lightnin's classic "Rooster Blues" with totally different lyrics,) and 15 tracks that have until now been available on rare, original Excello 45's. This CD brings you right inside the doors of J.D. Miller's legendary Crowley studio.

LAZY LESTER - I HEAR YOU KNOCKIN'!- THE EXCELLO SINGLES COLLECTION

Lazy Lester was one of J.D. Miller's greatest discover-

ies. An incredible harp player and versatile sessionman playing guitar, bass and percussion on hundreds of Excello masters from the late '50s to the late '60s. This compilation presents a collection of his Excello singles on one CD, 30 tracks, 76 minutes of music, in chronological order. Includes "I'm A Lover Not Fighter," "Sugar Coated Love," "I Hear You Knockin'," and 27 more stompin' Rhythm & Blues classics.

LONESOME SUNDOWN - I'M A MOJO MAN: THE BEST OF THE EXCELLO SINGLES

The Louisiana Mojo Man Lonesome Sundown is heard here with 24 tracks, including the A- and B-sides of his initial 12 Excello singles. Available for the first time in the U.S. on CD, this set includes the classic "My Home Is A Prison," the pulsating soul ballad groove of "Leave My Money Alone," and his first Excello release, "Lost Without Love."

SILAS HOGAN - TROUBLE: THE BEST OF THE EXCELLO MASTERS

This 26-cut compilation features Silas Hogan's down-home style including singles "You're Too Late Baby" through "Early One Morning." Also contained are seven previously-unreleased versions of four songs. All of the material has been newly remastered by Tom Moulton from the original master tapes. ■

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